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U.S., UK, USSR DISARMAMENT SESSION HELD IN GENEVA

LD031800Y Moscow TASS in English 1736 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 3, TASS--A meeting of the USSR, the USA and British delegations took place here today at the current talks aimed at working out a treaty on complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons' tests.

DISARMAMENT POSSIBLE DESPITE ADVOCATES OF ARMS RACE

LD021711Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Yu. Sibirtsev article: "The Call of the Times"]

[Text] Never before has the arms race assumed such proportions as it has at the present time. It has been calculated that military spending throughout the world since the end of World War II has amounted to $6 trillion--equivalent to the national income of all states in 1975. However, despite this, the flywheel of the arms race continues to spin.

The world could find itself faced by a new outburst of military rivalry if the plans for the manufacture of the neutron bomb move from the secret safes of the Pentagon into the plant shops, and if the new lethal weapon of mass destruction makes its way along the production line. Washington is bringing intensified pressure to bear on its NATO allies in seeking to secure their consent to the deployment of neutron bombs on European territory.

At the same time a broad propaganda campaign has been mounted in the press and on radio and television in the West designed to wrap the truth about the neutron bomb in a dense veil of falsehood and misinformation.

Whatever pseudoarguments the militarists resort to, it remains an indisputable fact that the development of neutron weapon production could have pernicious consequences for the world. A new weapon for mass murder would be raised over the heads of Europeans, and in the event of a military conflict millions and millions of people would perish or be affected by lethal radiation under the neutron barrage.

The question arises: Who in fact is pushing the capitalist world onto the ruinous path of arms escalation? Above all it is the powerful military-industrial complexes on both sides of the Atlantic. The history of capitalism has never before known such a broad coalition between the monopoly bourgeoisie and the military, which have united for the sake of obtaining super-high profits. What these profits are like is indicated by the figures recently published by the U.S. Senate committee which has been engaged in investigating the activity of 169 military-industrial corporations. Of this number, 164 have obtained profits ranging between 50 and 200 percent, 3 have obtained profits of over 500 percent and one, profits of more than 2,000 percent....

Among the Pentagon's 100 major contractors, 30 U.S. monopolies have assets in excess of $1 billion. Enormous capital is also controlled by such West European military concerns as Vickers, Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, Flick, British Aerospace and Dassault. The military monopolies are also making a fortune from the weapons trade which has increased sharply over the last 20 years. According to data from the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, the United States has sold weapons worth a total of $100 billion in the post-war period.

The military-industrial complexes, which have become a force unto themselves in the capitalist states, are bringing direct pressure to bear on governments, opposing the relaxation of tension and provoking international conflicts.

Another force which is constantly pushing the capitalist countries onto the path of intensifying the arms race is NATO. As the offspring and grim legacy of the cold war, this aggressive bloc constitutes an extremely rich nutrient medium for militarism. From NATO and from its main headquarters at Evere there issues a constant stream of initiatives and proposals aimed at nipping in the bud everything new and useful for detente cooperation and at artificially maintaining a state of tense military confrontation. Peremptory cries frequently ring out from NATO's supreme command against those countries which are, in the opinion of the NATO leaders, making inadequate military efforts. When Britain decided to cut back somewhat its military spending in the 1978-1979 fiscal year and to switch the resources thus saved to the struggle against crisis phenomena, NATO Secretary General Luns immediately sent a "didactic letter" to the British defense secretary in which he flatly stated that NATO cannot permit its members to reduce the level of military spending.

NATO's militarist activity increased appreciably after the U.S. adventure in Vietnam had failed ignominiously, and the Pentagon's prime attention was again switched to Europe. V. Zocconi, a correspondent of the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA, who visited the U.S. air base at Langley where the CIA headquarters is located, wrote that its aircrews are being oriented toward hostilities in Europe. "Training camps no longer try to simulate the jungle but rather the Ardennes and the plains of Europe. The cards fed into the aircraft computers reproduce the borders of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia...."

All these are facts. Nevertheless, despite the considerable influence of those forcefully advocating an arms race, it would be wrong to think that mankind is incapable of solving the problem of disarmament. It has already been proved by practical deeds that the international accords which have been achieved can retard the arms race in certain sectors.

For 14 years now, the environment has been enjoying a rest from radioactive fallout contamination which had occurred, and the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear tests in the three environments has been successful in this area. The nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty, to which more than 100 states have acceded, is fulfilling its task. The seabed and ocean floor have been taken out of the sphere of nuclear rivalry by an international treaty. A Soviet-U.S. agreement on preventing nuclear war, and a USSR agreement with France and Britain on the prevention of the accidental use of nuclear weapons have been concluded and are in force. This is far from a complete list of the measures which affect the military activity of states.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are pointing out precise reference points for the further struggle for military detente and for averting the threat of war. The report by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, entitled "The Great October Revolution and the Present Day," contains a concrete program of action on this score. It is a program of many levels and includes various steps concerning both nuclear and conventional weapons.

Under present conditions it is extremely important that states refrain from actions which step up the arms race. "We would like to hope," L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, declared at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session in Moscow, "that responsible figures in the United States realize how much, as the saying goes, is at stake."

The Soviet Union has proposed that a world disarmament conference be convened. The special UN General Assembly session, which is to take place in New York this spring, must become an interim stage toward this conference.

While putting forward a specific action program for disarmament, our country does not claim to have any monopoly in this sphere, and it is not putting up any prior conditions and reservations. It is prepared to examine with the utmost attention any other constructive proposals and views dictated by a concern for peace and security. The main thing now, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed in his replies to questions put him by a PRAVDA correspondent, is to pass on from talks about disarmament to real steps which would signify the beginning of disarmament. Only in this way is it possible to solve the most urgent task of our time.

VISHNEVSKIY COVERS SALT 'LINKAGE,' CSCE, RHODESIA, CHINA

LD061331Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Sergey Vishnevskiy review: "The International Week"]

[Text] Like the sun's rays, the joyful events of the beginning of March have illumined the many facets of the friendship of the people of the socialist community.

It was 100 years ago, just before the arrival of the Russian soldiers who brought liberation from the Ottoman yoke, that the Bulgarian poet Ivan Vazov wrote: "Throughout Bulgaria now we have only one word, one sigh and one cry: Russia!" At the time the patriotic organization of the Bulgarian Central Revolutionary Committee appealed to the people: Under the protection of the victorious Russian banners, the foundation of a better future would be laid. Those were perspicacious words! The Bulgarian people are now confidently building a new life. Our friendship, tested by a century of struggle and victories, is pure and indestructible. The words "hello, little brother!" resound like an exchange between generations. These words are the title of Vazov's poem and we hear the same heartfelt greeting now from our Bulgarian brothers.

The comradely cooperation among the builders of socialism and communism is strengthening and has now also emerged into the expanses of space.

After Yuriy Gagarin's flight, Prague's RUDE PRAVO wrote: "It is perfectly natural that it is precisely in the country where people are really free and where their minds can develop widely--it is precisely in that country that a man was born to be the first person in the world to realize the age-old dream of flying to the stars." We do not know whether the 12-year-old schoolboy Vladek Remek read these lines at the time, but it was precisely during those unforgettable spring days of 1961 that he was seized by Gagarin's dream. For the son of a free socialist country this dream was not unrealistic, and last Thursday it became reality. The Russian Aleksey Gubarev and the Czech Vladimir Remek are jointly flying the Soyuz-28 spaceship. An international socialist crew of space pilots--this is the first time in history this has happened!

The conference of secretaries of the central committees of the communist and workers parties of the socialist countries on international and ideological issues held in Budapest was devoted to the further consolidation of cooperation in the important ideological-political sphere. The main theme of the meeting was the consolidation of political detente and its supplementing with military detente. There is no task more important in international relations today.

A Fundamental Problem

In Lenin's definition, disarmament is an ideal of socialism. But for many decades of this century there were no real preconditions for the practical attainment of this noble goal, and the militarists publicly anathematized the idea of disarmament. Exactly five decades ago, speaking in Oxford, the British General E. Seinton, inventor of the tank, proclaimed: "The world is prepared far more for war than it is for peace, and since this is so I do not think that Britain should agree to any disarmament." U.S. and British imperialists launched military programs unimpeded, while at the same time rearming Germany. Japan, France and Italy did not lag behind. Everyone knows how that reckless arms race ended.

The forces of socialism and peace have now acquired such influence that the advance toward the solution of the fundamental problem of current world politics has become a real and practical task. Resolute demands to limit and halt the dangerous stockpiling of the means of warfare have been heard recently at numerous public forums in various countries. The international conference of nongovernment organizations on disarmament was one of the most representative forums of the peace-loving forces. Mass demonstrations and meetings of protest against the nuclear threat from the peace champions rocked Japan on 1 March, "Bikini Day." The movement against "the neutron death" has become very widespread. London's conservative DAILY TELEGRAPH notes: "The majority of Europeans are against the neutron bomb."

There are weighty grounds for the world public's heightened alarm and concern. AP has just reported, quoting NATO circles, that the White House has made a decision on the question of the production of the neutron bomb.

That is why it is so urgently necessary to curb the arms race. An understanding of this fact is growing among leading circles in many states. Preparation for the convening of the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament is proceeding actively. The socialist countries are playing an enterprising part in its preparation. The working documents, which they have submitted to the preparatory committee, contain a complex of specific and feasible proposals. The forum could be an important stage on the path to the convening of a world disarmament conference.

Paths Through the Obstacles

The successful completion of the Soviet-U.S. strategic offensive arms limitation talks would give great impetus to the curbing of the arms race. A new agreement (SALT II) would have been concluded long ago had it not been for those transatlantic circles which, in the words of Senator G. Hart, want "to smother the baby in the cradle," that is, to thwart the agreement. The location of these sinister forces is also well known. The Washington weekly NEW REPUBLIC writes: "The massive financing of anti-SALT groupings is done by defense contractors," that is, by corporations which fulfill the Pentagon's orders. Their logic is simple: Arms limitation is equivalent to profits limitation. Therefore they are not stinting in generous gifts to militarist organizations conducting violent propaganda against SALT II.

A useful report from the U.S. State Department which refutes the false version of the Soviet side's "violation" of the 1972 accords, spread by the opponents of detente, was made public recently. But at the same time, the disturbing word "linkage" is being heard from official Washington. This word issues most frequently from the mouth of Z. Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser. Linkage--of what with what? It transpires that it is a case of linkage between the SALT talks and questions which have nothing to do with the problem of arms limitation, and in particular of "linkage" with the situation in the region of the Horn of Africa (here the peace-loving aims of Soviet aid to the victim of Somali aggression--Ethiopia--are being shamelessly distorted). Obviously sensing the unsoundness of the "linkage" tactic, Brzezinski is dancing round in circles: Today he is in favor of "linkage," tomorrow he is against it, but immediately adds that it "could become unavoidable." After all, the "hawks" are nearby, listening, remembering and recalling when the opportunity arises....

Why all these dance steps? They might have had some point if the United States had less interest in curbing the arms race than we. But both peoples have equal interest in reaching agreement, as does all mankind. It would be useful for some people in Washington to reread the President's recent statement: "The lack of a new SALT agreement...would definitely lead to a deterioration in the atmosphere and to ultimate catastrophe. If the arms race continues or is intensified, there will be a greater likelihood that these arms will be used under certain circumstances."

To bring matters purposefully to the successful attainment of an accord on the basis of the states' equal security--that is the urgent demand of the people.

The paths of detente are hard. But in the acute antagonism with the champions of tension, the principle of peaceful coexistence is blazing a trail in international life.

For instance, take the Belgrade meeting now ending. It was faced with a task clearly defined by the final act--conducting "a deepened exchange of opinions both on the fulfillment of the clauses of the final act and the tasks defined by the conference and also, in the context of the questions discussed, on the improvement of mutual relations, the consolidation of security and the development of cooperation in Europe and future development of the process of detente." For many months some NATO strategists stubbornly tried to distract the forum's attention from this task and to replace useful discussion with a "psychological warfare" operation. To this end A. Goldberg, a past master in subversion, was sent to Belgrade. But his propaganda speeches will probably be forgotten, for they contained nothing positive. It is something else which will remain: The valuable initiatives of the USSR and the other socialist states on implementing the Helsinki decisions, and the useful proposals of the neutral countries and some Western countries which were comprehensively and beneficially discussed in Belgrade. They are on the European agenda and will be examined and implemented in a businesslike manner. The implementation of the final act is a long-term process. The advance along the path initiated in Helsinki is continuing.

Having failed with their "psychological operation" in Belgrade, the opponents of detente have, in a fit of impotent rage, attacked . . . Helsinki. Laqueur, Sulzberger and Ginsburg, the qualified U.S. anticommunists, have begun to make a fuss about "Finland's loss of independence" and have descended to flagrant attacks against President U. Kekkonen. Nothing can be expected from these transatlantic "hawks" except dirty tricks. It is something else which draws the attention: The attack against Finland's peace-loving policy has been coordinated by the U.S. State Department. This attempt uses totally unsuitable means. Soviet-Finnish relations are and will remain a perfect example of peaceful coexistence in action.

Self-Exposure of Hypocrites

For a long time London and Washington have been putting on an act, pretending to be the "sincere friends" of the long-suffering people of Zimbabwe groaning under the oppression of I. Smith's racist clique. The Anglo-U.S. plan for Rhodesia which allegedly promised to transfer full power to the indigenous African population has been publicized by every means. To the sound of this show the Rhodesian racists, "who have always striven (according to the New York TIMES) to split their opponents," [illegible] selected local quislings--Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau. Smith has had no difficulty in forcing them to sign the "internal settlement agreement" in accordance with which the puppets will receive "power" by 31 December.

The extent of this "power" may be judged merely by the fact that the whites, who make up only 3 percent of the voters, will receive 28 percent of the seats in parliament, having the right to veto any African initiatives. The racists retain control over the military-punitive apparatus. Nor will the country's true masters--the imperialist monopolies and above all the Union Carbide Corporation, which has $500 million invested in chromium mining--be hurt. The foreign predators are receiving "constitutional guarantees" protecting their property against nationalization.

This "power of the blacks" is so sewn with white threads that even many Western reactionary press organs are not rushing to approve Smith's machination. According to the DAILY TELEGRAPH, "the agreement is far from granting the black majority real power."

But where are the Africans' Anglo-U.S. "friends," with their ardent concern for human rights? After adopting a somewhat affected manner as a cover, they soon approved the shameful farce played out by the Salisbury authorities. After consultations in London, Sithole reported that Britain is "quite prepared to support our agreement and to legalize Rhodesia's interim government without delay" when it is created. Washington has reported that it considers Smith's action "a significant step toward resolving the Rhodesia problem." A shameful self-exposure of the pseudo-champions of human rights and freedoms is in evidence. They are already gradually preparing the ground for recognition of the 'new power" in order subsequently to endeavor to end the embargo against the Rhodesian racists and to grant the monopolies complete freedom of action in exploiting the Africans.

Things were smooth on paper, but they have forgotten about the pitfalls, and these will have to be negotiated....They have forgotten about the people. UPI reporter (Klefin) has reported what the Africans are thinking and saying in Salisbury: "The majority are against the agreement." In their eyes there is only one representative of the Zimbabwe people--the patriotic front. The front's leaders have expressed firm determination to continue the struggle for freedom.

The support and solidarity of the African people and of all the world's freedom-loving forces are on the side of the courageous patriots of Zimbabwe.

Session in Peking

The National People's Congress, fifth convocation, is presently meeting in Peking. International public attention has been drawn to the session, for the National People's Congress is meeting for the first time since the death of Mao Tse-tung, the "defeat of the gang of four" and the accession to power of the new group headed by Hua Kuo-feng. It is not yet possible to form a complete impression of the work of the session, as news from Peking is very scant. Suffice it to say that Hua Kuo-feng's report, which lasted 3.5 hours, has been recounted by NCNA in only seven typewritten pages.

A "strategic" slogan has been proposed for domestic policy--"establish universal order in the country by seizing the decisive link." This very motto implies that, in the judgment of the present Chinese leaders, "universal order" has not yet been established in the PRC. This is also evidenced by Hua Kuo-feng's calls to "develop the class struggle.." to bring to an end the in-depth exposure of the four" and so forth.

During the session's discussion of the main points of the draft 10-year national development plan for 1976-1985, the country's "scientific and technical backwardness" was noted, and the need was recognized "to resolve in all earnestness a number of questions having a direct bearing on the national economy as a whole." Experts on China see in these statements a desire to find a way out of the quagmire of economic disasters into which the country was plunged by the policy of the previous PRC leadership, starting with the "great Cultural Revolution." The promises made at the session "gradually to improve the life of the people" are symptomatic here. The Peking leaders, France's LE MATIN believes, would like to make up for the time lost during the years of the "Cultural Revolution."

Whereas specialists detect a certain departure from Mao's legacy in the speeches on domestic themes and in the changes in the PRC constitution, this cannot be said in familiarizing oneself with the statements on foreign policy problems. The contradiction between the call for the PRC to be pulled up into the ranks of the world's foremost countries in terms of national economic development by the end of the century and the proclaimed policy of "preparing in case of war" is obvious. "The formulas have not changed in recent years," L'HUMANITE points out, "and the PRC still depicts the USSR as the chief enemy, to the great delight of U.S. imperialism."

The preceding period in the life of China is called a time of "severe trials" in Hua Kuo-feng's report. As can be seen, the great country has not yet emerged from that difficult period.

Progressive mankind is entering the spring of 1978 in tense confrontation with the forces of imperialism and reaction and with their accomplices. The titanic battle for the fundamental interests of the people of the world is continuing under the growing influence of the forces of peace, progress and freedom.

EDITORIAL EXAMINES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING STATES

LD080919Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Growing Cooperation"]

[Text] Profound changes are taking place before our very eyes in the social and political make-up of the modern world. The world socialist system is steadily developing and strengthening. A new situation is taking shape in extensive areas which only recently were regarded as the "preserve" of the colonialists. Popular masses numbering many millions, whom imperialism, in order to maintain its domination, strove to exclude from the sphere of historical creativity, have smashed the colonial systems and entered the world arena, taking their destiny into their own hands. Today over one-half of the world's population is made up of people who have cast off the yoke of colonialism since World War II. Dozens of young, independent states have emerged from the ruins of colonial empires.

Throughout its history the Soviet Union has been and still is a loyal ally of people wanting freedom from foreign oppression and is giving them effective support. Now that imperialism's colonial system in its classic forms has disintegrated beneath the blows of the national liberation movement the developing states are faced with new tasks. Their interests demand the final elimination of the imperialist powers' economic and political domination of the former colonial world. [paragraph continues]

Under these conditions, continuing to demonstrate solidarity with the people of developing countries, the 25th CPSU Congress proclaimed: "The Soviet Union fully supports the legitimate aspirations of young states and their resolve to rid themselves completely of imperialist exploitation and to have control of their own national resources."

By broadening comprehensive ties with developing countries on the basis of equality and respect for mutual sovereignty the USSR and the other socialist community states are contributing to the strengthening of their independence. This cooperation is the embodiment of the natural alliance of world socialism and the national liberation movement united by common goals in the struggle against imperialism, for social and national progress, and for peace and people's security.

From close or identical positions the socialist countries and young states advocate the solution of such fundamental present-day problems as general and complete disarmament, the final liquidation of colonialism and racism and the establishment of a new, just economic system. The Soviet Union supports the anti-imperialist line of the nonalined movement, in which most liberated countries participate, and rates highly the activity of the OAU aimed at strengthening peace in Africa and defending the people of this continent against the intrigues of aggressive forces. In turn, the peace-loving initiatives of the motherland of October meet with wide support in the developing world.

The relaxation of international tension--a process developing primarily thanks to the efforts of the USSR and the other socialist countries--gives young states confidence in the future and enables them to solve their problems in a more favorable atmosphere. As is known, the Soviet Union submitted a proposal to the United Nations to the effect that when the proposals on limiting the arms race are implemented a proportion of the funds thus made available should be allocated to the developing countries.

In its relations with the liberated countries the world's first socialist state is not self-seeking, it is not pursuing political and economic domination; it proceeds on the basis of mutual interests and views their problems with understanding. You only have to recall, for example, that Soviet assistance has made it possible to create a state sector in the national economies of many developing countries which has become the pivot of economic independence and of the implementation of progressive social transformations. Between the USSR and 75 developing countries, treaties and agreements have been signed envisaging broad mutually advantageous cooperation in the trade and economic sphere. These ties help former colonies and semi-colonies strengthen their national economies and counter the onslaught of imperialist monopolies.

A number of recently liberated states in Asia and Africa are conducting national building on the basis of a socialist orientation. "In the socialist countries," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said, "these states have true and reliable friends ready to give them all possible assistance and support in development along the progressive path, economic and organizational support as well as moral and political support--right up to assistance in strengthening defense."

The magnetic attraction of the ideas of socialism alarms imperialist and reactionaries of all shades. Acting in accordance with the "divide and rule" principle, they are trying to cause conflict between the developing states and the political forces within these countries. [paragraph continues]

To this end imperialism even fuels armed conflicts like the one blazing in the Horn of Africa at the moment. At the same time, the neocolonialists are making a big effort to undermine the solidarity of the socialist countries and liberated states. Resorting to political and economic pressure on the young states and brandishing the bugbear of anti-Sovietism, the imperialists are trying to impose on them the notorious idea of "partnership" and make them participate in closed groups to allow them to continue their unrestrained exploitation of extensive areas of Asia and Africa. Life convincingly confirms that if the neocolonialists manage, with the help of local reaction, to drive a wedge between the Soviet Union and a developing country this turns out to be against the interests of its people and to the detriment of its independence.

The liberated people are solving complex problems and are encountering serious external and internal difficulties. It is natural that they should seek assistance from the Soviet Union and borrow the experience of the socialist world. The further deepening of this cooperation and support for developing countries correspond to the interests of the social progress of mankind and the strengthening of peace on earth.

FALLING DOLLAR CAUSES CONCERN AMONG OPEC MEMBERS

LD0716167 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 7, TASS--TASS economic commentator Sergey Stoklitskiy writes: When early this week the American dollar value rate for second time in the past three days dropped below the "fatal" line, and it was sold for less than two West German marks at the money market in Frankfurt-on-Main, the world press carried a very symptomatic statement by Qatar Finance and Oil Minister 'Abd al-Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani. The representative of that oil-producing state called upon the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to consider in the near future the question of expediency of the further use of the dollar as the basic currency in accounts for oil in world markets.

It is obvious that the call made by the minister is most directly linked with a steady drop in the dollar rate. This inflicts a tangible damage upon the petroleum exporting countries. It has been estimated that for this reason the OPEC member-countries have already lost about 14,000 million dollars.

Qatar is not alone in its attitude to the dollar. A few days ago the leaders of Kuwait and Iran stressed the need of revision of the practices of setting prices of oil in dollars. Earlier, Bahrain declared that special drawing rights of the International Monetary Fund be used in setting prices of oil. Even Saudi Arabia, which feels particular "attachment" for the United States, started displaying signs of anxiety.

The attempts of the Persian Gulf states to raise their voice against the dollar diktat were received in Washington with unconcealed concern. For the United States elimination of privileges of its national monetary unit would actually mean a rise in payments for the imported oil and would lead to a sharp rise in the deficit of the country's balance of trade.

In a bid to retain the dollar's "petroleum benefits", Washington resorts to the traditional "carrot and stick" policy.

Thus, the recent statement, made by the U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown on the Pentagon's intention to station in the Persian Gulf area its military units has been regarded by observers as a direct demonstration of the American policy from the position of strength.

"A carrot" has been the White House's decision to meet the ambitious desires of Saudi leaders and, in exchange for their further support of the U.S. policy, to sell Riyadh most up-to-date F-15 fighters. Strengthening the alliance with the most reactionary forces, Washington resorts to any means in a bid to prevent the peoples of the region from deciding the future of their national riches themselves.

Price Hike Urged

LD071410Y Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 7, TASS--The unceasing dropping of the U.S. dollar's exchange rate in the Western currency exchanges is causing serious alarm in many capitals of the Middle East. The states of this oil-bearing region use the dollar as the principal account unit in selling oil abroad. This is why the devaluation of American currency automatically leads to a considerable shrinking of their profits.

As stated by Ali Muhammad al-Jiddah, secretary general of Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), thirteen states-members of this organisation annually lose almost,14,000 million dollars because the real value of this currency is constantly dropping. Kuwait alone loses approximately one million dollars daily due to this reason.

According to Ali Muhammad al-Jiddah, the OPEC countries are now considering the possibility of working out a "fair and logical" method of fixing oil prices with a view to avoiding unjustified financial losses. Experts are preparing a report on the state of the dollar, which will be submitted to the consideration of the OPEC conference this summer.

The oil-exporting countries are also considering measures to defend their interests. The Qatar Minister of Finance and Petroleum A. Al-Thani believes, for instance, that it is necessary to exclude the dollar immediately from all oil settlements and to determine petroleum prices on the basis of a conventional OPEC currency, which would stable in respect to fluctuations in the world currency markets. In the opinion of Kuwait, oil prices should be raised in order to overcome the negative consequences of the "dollar's erosion" and the inflation that has affected the capitalist world. The Kuwait Minister of Finance A. al-Atiqi said in an interview to the newspaper AL-WATAN that his country intended to discuss with other oil-exporting states the possibility of calling an emergency conference on petroleum prices.

The newspaper AL-WAHDAH, which comes out in Abu Dhabi, notes that it is necessary to adopt a decision which would ensure the rights of the Arabs and prevent the actual pillaging of their oil wealth.

AAPSO ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY REAFFIRMS 'GENERAL LINE'

LD071221Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 10, 3 Mar 78 p 15 LD

[Correspondent V. Zhitomirskiy interview with Nuri 'Abd ar-Razzag, AAPSO acting general secretary: "AAPSO's Line Unshakable"]

[Text] Broad circles of the Soviet and international public have condemned the crime committed in Nicosia during a session of the AAPSO Presidium. The participants in this representative meeting were subjected to a terrorist attack during which AAPSO General Secretary Yusuf as-Siba'i was killed. AAPSO acting General Secretary Nuri 'Abd ar-Razzaq told NOVOYE VREMYA correspondent V. Zhitomirskiy:

"The organizers of the attack planned to strike a blow against the Afro-Asian solidarity movement. The operation was carried out at a time of upsurge in our movement. The killing itself happened precisely when the work of the presidium was approaching a successful conclusion. The participants in the session had already formulated the general line which the AAPSO leadership intended to pursue until the next congress.

"It is the unanimous opinion of those assembled that this act was inspired by reactionary, proimperialist forces acting in their own long-term interests, as well as in the interests of Zionist circles. The dramatic events which followed the taking of hostages showed that the whole operation is part of a big proimperialist plot directed not only against AAPSO and its general secretary personally but also against the Republic of Cyprus and the Palestinians.

"According to some reports," N. 'Abd ar-Razzaq continued, "the terrorists' aim was supposedly the physical removal of those who accompanied President as-Sadat on his trip to Israel. But this is the 'outer casing' of the events. Their true essence is still far from clear. I wish to emphasize that the AAPSO Presidium met immediately after the tragic events to express its anger at the killing of our colleague and friend. The session participants confirmed their intention of strictly following the resolutions and documents adopted by the presidium the previous evening, when its work was fruitfully directed by Yusuf as-Siba'i. These were a general declaration and resolutions on the Palestinians, the Arab people's national liberation movement, the situation on the African Continent, including the Horn of Africa, disarmament and on the situation in Asian countries.

"In the light of the drama which took place and the activation of reactionary forces, it was unanimously emphasized that the AAPSO line of strengthening the solidarity of Arab and African peoples must be pursued with still greater consistency and energy."

Secretary General Appointed

LD071458Y Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 7, TASS--The noted Egyptian writer and publicist 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sarqawi has been appointed secretary general of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation. He replaced in this capacity Yusuf as-Siba'i, assassinated by terrorists in the Cyprus capital during the session of the organisation's presidium on February 18. 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sarqawi is an active participant of the movement for the strengthening and development of Afro-Asian solidarity, the author of novels and short stories, which are popular in the Arab world and elsewhere. Many of them have been translated into the Russian language and published in the Soviet Union.

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WALDHEIM CALLS ON S. AFRICA TO RELEASE PRISONERS

LD041204Y Moscow TASS in English 0734 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 4, TASS--U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim again demanded the release of all political prisoners in South Africa--fighters against the apartheid and racialist regimes. The organization of United Nations, he stressed in a statement issued here, must continue vigorous efforts for the release of political prisoners in the South African Republic who were jailed for actions against the apartheid policies. The U.N. secretary general recalled that the United Nations organization had repeatedly passed decisions demanding the release of all political prisoners in the south of Africa and the cancellation of repressive laws directed at the suppression of opponents of apartheid. However, South Africa, he noted, disregards the will of the world community and, as before, prohibits the political activity of all who are in opposition to apartheid, continues victimizing the leaders of African population struggling against racial segregation.

The U.N. secretary general has called upon the international community for intensifying the struggle for the full elimination of all vestiges of racialism and colonialism in the south of Africa.

AUCCTU CHAIRMAN SHIBAYEV RECEIVES WFTU PRESIDENT

LD071856Y Moscow TASS in English 1852 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 7, TASS--The president of the Central Council of the USSR Trade Unions, Aleksey Shibayev, today received Enrique Pastorino, the president of the World Federation of Trade Unions who took part in the meetings of trade union activists in Moscow and Kiev devoted to the 9th World Congress of Trade Unions to be held in Prague in April.

During a warm and friendly talk the participation of Soviet trade unions in the preparation of the congress and topical problems of the international trade union movement were discussed. Aleksey Shibayev cordially congratulated Enrique Pastorino on his decoration with the Order of the Friendship of the Peoples.

UNITED STATES

CARTER-TITO TALKS BEGIN; INCLUDE AFRICAN HORN, MIDEAST

LD0809482Y Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 8, TASS--Talks have opened here between U.S. President James Carter and Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito. As an official spokesman for the White House said, the first meeting covered issues of international relations, in particular the situation in the Horn of Africa and in the Middle East. Questions of bilateral relations are to be discussed at the next meeting on March 9.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN U.S. OVER DISARMAMENT QUESTION

LD0712152Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent G. Vasilyev: "Fierce Debates"]

[Text] Washington, March--Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session, which called for fresh efforts to impart dynamism and a more constructive character to Soviet-American relations, made a positive impact on political and public circles in the United States and imparted fresh impetus to the discussions here on cardinal international problems.

...Congressman John Conyers' fairly capacious office could scarcely hold all those who attended the press conference. The topic of discussion was the U.S. draft budget for fiscal 1979.

"The President has requested $128.4 billion for military purposes in fiscal 1979," Conyers said, "which is approximately $10 billion more than in the current year. Specialists believe that at the current growth of military expenditure we will have a military budget of $250 billion within 9 years, and we will spend a total of around $1.8 trillion during this period... At the same time, the country's social needs--the fight against unemployment, housing construction, medical services and education--are consigned to oblivion. Funds for these programs are dwindling...."

Conyers said that, along with 100 other congressmen, he had supported a draft resolution demanding that $7-10 billion be transferred from military items to civil items. But this would be only the beginning, he said. A sharp reduction in military appropriations is needed. There must be a realistic reappraisal of U.S. foreign and military policy. The unlimited stockpiling of monstrous means of mass destruction does not safeguard the country's security, it increases the danger of a thermonuclear catastrophe.

Conyers' realistic approach is adopted by a considerable number of legislators on Capitol Hill, but certainly not by all.

In the House of Representatives a tall, balding man was pounding the table with his hand and straining his voice, urging his colleagues to restore to the Pentagon budget $462 million for B-1 bomber trials.

"If the world is subjected to the inconceivable horrors of a third world war," he rants pathetically, "1977 may go down in history as the year when the seeds of defeat of the West were sown...."

"New CIA data," "the dramatic build-up of the Soviets' military might," "intolerable concessions to the Russians at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks"--the arguments of Congressman Sikes, a champion of the cold war from the warm state of Florida, encompass the whole range of "arguments" of the U.S. military-industrial complex, which are used in an attempt to intimidate Americans and make them cough up fresh offerings to the god of war.

The same day the Pentagon's most active hustlers made still another attempt to reactivate the program for the production of the latest super-bomber, which has been halted by the White House. However, their efforts were unsuccessful. By a majority of 234 votes the lower house of Congress followed the Senate's lead and rejected the military department's excessive claims. (Incidentally, this decision reflected not so much love of peace as mathematics. Like President Carter, the legislators deemed it "more rational" to spend the dollars on cruise missiles than on manned bombers).

Congressman J. Conyers' press conference and the noisy B-1 debate took place on the very same day. The question of military appropriations was being discussed in both cases. But the approaches were different. At the press conference there was a sense of world realities and of the need to limit the extremely dangerous and wasteful race for means of destruction. In the speeches by the succession of "hawks" who addressed the House of Representatives there was a sense of nostalgia for the cold war days. So, the events of a single day reflected the fierce discussion which has built up here about the cardinal problems of U.S. foreign policy.

It has been more than a year since the 39th President of the United States, J. Carter, was inaugurated in Washington on a sunny, frosty day. On the steps of the Capitol he talked about his intention to "wage our wars against poverty, ignorance and injustice" and to endeavor to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the world."

However, instead of the $5-7 billion reduction in military expenditure promised in the election campaign, the new administration's first budget increased appropriations for the Pentagon by almost $10 billion. If the military's appetite continues to be satisfied on such a lavish scale, U. S. Defense Secretary H. Brown can contemplate his department receiving $172 billion in 1983.

It is important to note also that a qualitative escalation of the arms race is in the offering, in addition to the quantitative increase in Pentagon appropriations. The United States is putting into production or developing new types of instruments of death which destablize the international situation: The neutron bomb, cruise missiles, Trident nuclear submarines, MX strategic missiles, MK-12A warheads and the new XM-1 tank.

Level-headed people in the United States are very alarmed at the attempts by the military-industrial complex not only to obstruct historically imperative steps on the path of disarmament but also, through intensifying the arms race, to jeopardize the positive shifts which have been achieved in the past.

According to William Kincade, executive director of the Arms Control Association, America is going through a very crucial period. Either Americans manage to curb the militarists or a new twist in the arms race will begin, which will be even more difficult to stop.

Despite the fact that the opponents of detente have become markedly more active recently in the United States, the overwhelming majority of Americans favors the achievement of an understanding with the Soviet Union and is against the "deterrence" policy. This is confirmed by a recent public opinion poll conducted by Cleveland University. Some 75 percent of the people questioned were resolutely in favor of a new agreement on strategic offensive arms limitation.

In the same building on Dupont Circle, where we talked with W. Kincade, I listened to a speech by Senator D. Clark. The member of the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee chose as the theme of his address to the annual meeting of the Association of Iowa Democrats the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. The senator sharply criticized the opponents of the new agreement which is being formulated as people who are prejudicing the interests of the American people. They are distorting the true nature of the complex talks by focusing attention on isolated technical questions and ignoring their very important military and political significance, he said.

The senator demonstrated the total bankruptcy on the champions of tension, who believe that the Americans should either "outwit" the Soviet delegation at the talks or impose their will on it, so that the understanding gives the United States unilateral advantages. In international intercourse between two equal sides, Clark said, we cannot make the other side sign an agreement detrimental to its interests. We cannot alter the strategic balance in our favor through talks, the senator argues. D. Clark's speech sounded a note of dissatisfaction with the fact that the detente supporters in Washington political circles are not making full use of the American public's potential broad support for peaceful steps and often surrender the initiative to their opponents.

At the same time, it should be noted that collaboration between peace supporters has become more active and stronger recently. At the beginning of February a broad coalition of public, trade union and religious organizations was created which sharply condemned the new increase in the Pentagon budget. Recently the members of the World Peace Council Bureau and local activists in the struggle for peace met for the first time in the American capital. The meeting called for disarmament and international cooperation. The "League of Concerned Scientists" published a statement sharply criticizing the creation of the neutron weapon. The Communist Party of the United States resolutely and consistently advocates the policy of detente and the development of Soviet-American relations.

Healthy forces in the United States have big advantages--realism in the assessment of the world situation, an understanding of the historical need to prevent a nuclear war, the vital interests of the American people. Their opponents' trump cards are the big political and financial potential of the military-industrial complex and highly influential positions in the administration apparatus, Congress and the press. A very great deal depends on the outcome of the battle between the two, not only for this country but for the whole of mankind.

All realistically minded Americans firmly believe that the path of international detente and peace corresponds to the interests of their own country.

FRG DISAGREES WITH U.S. OVER ECONOMY, NEUTRON BOMB

LD071522 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 7, TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports: The desire of the United States to save, cost what it may, its key positions in the Western system of trade and economy has caused serious tension in its relations with the FRG, one of the major American partner and ally.

The sharply aggravated differences between the two countries cover a broad range of questions, directly arising from the incapability of the capitalist world to find a way out of the crisis shaking it. Striving for the role of "leader of the West," the United States is endeavoring the foist on other states and particularly on the FRG and Japan its own recipes for the financial-economic policy, which would shift to them most of the burden of the existing economic problems. Thus, Washington is persistently advocating the "theory of three locomotives," according to which the United States, FRG and Japan must "drag" the West out of the depression. With this aim in view, the American official representatives are endeavouring to get from Bonn and Tokyo a commitment to take additional measures to stimulate their economy.

Whereas the Japanese have yielded to the massive pressure of U.S. demands, the Schmidt government has bluntly rejected them, which caused unconcealed irritation in Washington.

Speaking recently in the American capital, the FRG minister for economy, Otto Lambsdorff, openly warned the U.S. administration against the attempts to meddle with the domestic affairs of his country and qualified Washington's efforts as "futile." The minister said that in Bonn's opinion acceptance of the American proposal would bring about growing inflation in the West German's economy. The same viewpoint was unequivocally expressed to the U.S. secretary of the treasury, Michael Blumenthal, during his recent visit to Bonn.

The differing views of both sides on the ways and methods of overcoming the slump have been further aggravated by the unceasing dropping of the dollar's exchange rate. Referring to official circles, the newspaper Washington POST reports that there is a wide spread opinion that by encouraging the dollar's devaluation, Washington hopes to cheapen American exports abroad at the expense of the interests of the FRG and other partners, to reduce its huge foreign trade deficits.

There are frictions also in other spheres of bilateral relations, including the question of the U.S. intention to deploy neutron weapons in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. Open dissatisfaction is being voiced with increasing frequency in Washington about "Bonn's sluggishness" because it does not dare come out in support of Pentagon's sinister plans in defiance of the protests of public circles.

U.S. REACTIONARIES LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANAL TREATY

LD071225Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 3 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[V. Mirnov article: "Panama: Struggle for Sovereignty"]

[Text] U.S. reactionary circles have launched a noisy campaign against the new Panamanian-American treaties signed last year by U.S. President J. Carter and Panamanian Chief of Government O. Torrijos. They provide, as is known, for full control over the Canal Zone and its installations to be transferred to Panama by the year 2000, and also guarantee world shipping freedom to use the interoceanic waterway. And now a so-called "group to ascertain the truth about the Panama Canal" has been formed in the United States.

Opponents of the ratification of the treaties in the American Senate have resorted to the well-worn strategy of "amendments" and "supplements." The first two amendments were introduced by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, which demanded that the United States have the right of unilateral "defense" of the canal and the right of special passage for American warships. According to UPI, at least 30 more amendments have been prepared in the Senate. Reaction is trying to force through provisions in the new treaties which would retain a U.S. military presence in the Canal Zone even after the year 2000 and would ban the passage of third countries' vessels through the canal.

This campaign has aroused indignation among the Panamanian public. In connection with this O. Torrijos has warned that, if the amendments are approved in Senate, the Panamanians will have to hold another referendum.

The Panamanians believe that the canal treaty now in force is a dark page in the country's history. The Panamanian people are continuing to struggle against domination by American imperialism and for complete sovereignty over their own territory.

U.S. MACHINATIONS IN MICRONESIA THWART SELF-DETERMINATION

LD071251Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[I. Nikolayev article: "Decolonization Washington-style"]

[Text] The decolonization process is nearing completion throughout the world. Thus far, 10 of the 11 nongoverning territories which formed the UN trusteeship system after World War II have now implemented their right to self-determination and independence. Only the inhabitants of the Pacific Islands Trust Territory (Micronesia) have been unable as yet to implement this right which was proclaimed as the goal of the trusteeship system in the UN Charter.

It has been a real disaster for the Micronesians that their motherland, which consists largely of small, picturesque islands and atolls scattered over broad expanses of ocean, lies almost in the center of the Pacific, at the intersection of sea and air routes, and so has particular strategic attractiveness for Washington. It is for this reason that the United States, which has been the administering power since 1947 under an agreement with the UN Security Council, has in the last few years embarked on all kinds of maneuvers in order to perpetuate its control over Micronesia and transform it into a possession.

In 1970, the United States, trying to implement its annexationist designs, proposed so-called commonwealth status for the Micronesians which would give the inhabitants of the islands a certain amount of autonomy in their internal affairs while the United States would take full responsibility for their defense and foreign affairs. However, convinced that the islanders as represented by the Micronesian Congress do not favor tying themselves to illusory autonomy forever, the American authorities began dismembering the united trust territory and swallowing it up piece by piece. In so doing the United States ignored the important provisions of the UN declaration on granting independence to colonial countries and peoples which condemns any attempts aimed at partial or total infringement on the national unity and territorial integrity of colonial territories.

Above all, the United States tried to separate the Mariana Islands from the rest of Micronesia, since they are the most valuable islands strategically. Suffice it to say that these islands are adjacent to the island of Guam where one of the most important U.S. military bases in the Pacific is located. This group of islands also includes the island of Tinian from which American bombers carrying atom bombs flew to the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Using all sorts of tricks, including promises of economic aid, the United States in 1975 secured from the inhabitants of Mariana formal approval of a commonwealth treaty within the framework of a political union with the United States. Later, in 1976, this treaty was ratified by the U.S. Congress. At the beginning of the year the "first elected governor" of the Mariana Islands took office. Thus, yet another important step was made toward the final annexation of these islands to the United States.

The American and other foreign press organs write openly that it is primarily the Pentagon's interest and its insatiable desire to acquire new bases, launch pads and firing ranges for modern weapons which lie behing Washington's expansionist maneuvers in Micronesia. As the journal FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, published in Hong Kong, reports, a representative of the U.S. Navy stated that "the creation of a commonwealth of islands serves our national interests." There is no doubt what interests the gallant U.S. naval captain had in mind. It is no coincidence that the largest and, in essence, the only delegation present at the governor's installation in the Mariana Islands was an American military delegation headed by Admiral Baldwin, commander of the Seventh Fleet.

The American military looks upon the Mariana Islands--the New York TIMES in fact admitted this--as a new outpost in the Pacific Ocean in addition to Guam. Bases for bombers and missile-carrying ships capable of striking the Asian mainland, and marine units which could be sent if necessary, to the Asian shore of the Pacific, could be placed here. It is precisely for these aggressive and hegemonist plans and by no means for the defense of the U.S. that the Pentagon needs the Mariana Islands and also the other islands of Micronesia located 7,000 km from the United States.

Using the old imperialist divide and rule principal, the United States is trying to secure possession of two archipelagoes in Micronesia: the Marshall and Caroline Islands. A State Department adviser recently made a fairly transparent allusion to these designs by saying: "The Mariana Islands are the most recent addition to U.S. territory but possibly not the last." Indeed, the American authorities are holding talks with representatives of the Marshall and Caroline islands concerning "free association" status with the United States. In fact, this status would also mean an American protectorate over the islands and would transform them into a colony.

Washington obviously believes that following domination of the inhabitants of the Marshall and Caroline islands with the help of proven pressure tactics and all kinds of promises, the United States will by 1981 be able to announce the end of its guardianship over Micronesia under the pretext that its population has "exercised self-determination" by advocating annexation to the United States in one form or another. Thus they hope to present the United Nations and the world public with a fait accompli under the noble pretext of the population's "free will." This is how Washington sees decolonization.

The one-sided actions of the United States regarding the trust territory of the Pacific islands are illegal and contravene important international documents.

In accordance with article 83 of the UN Charter "all UN functions relating to strategic regions, including the ratification of conditions of agreements about trusteeship, their alterations and amendments, are carried out by the Security Council." This UN statute provision refers to Micronesia which has been officially recognized as a stragegic region. Consequently, despite the maneuvers of American diplomacy, the UN Security Council cannot be kept from the resolution of problems connected with the future of the Pacfic islands trust territory.

The people of Micronesia must be given the real and not the imaginary right to self-determination. International law and justice demand this.

HOOPES-SCOVILLE MEMO CRITICIZES U.S. MILITARY BUDGET

LD071852Y Moscow TASS in English 1842 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 7, TASS--Townsend Hoopes and Herbert Scoville, prominent American military specialists, submitted to the U.S. Congress a memorandum concerning the planned increase of the Pentagon budget to 126 billion dollars in the 1979 fiscal year. They say that such a level of armed spending represents a danger to peace and detente.

The writers of the memorandum are strongly against the inclusion in the budget of new programmes for deploying strategic nuclear forces which the United States could well give up without affecting in any way its national security. These programmes, H. Scoville stressed in the Senate Budget Committee, are aimed at building up "nuclear superiority" over the USSR and not at ensuring national security. He said that the United States should not strive for this illusory goal which is absolutely meaningless in the present conditions. Instead of trying to upset the strategic power balance by developing and deploying new arms systems, the United States should maintain this balance by equal agreements on arms control. The memorandum stresses that achievement of Soviet-American agreement on strategic arms limitation is of special importance in this respect.

The authors of the memorandum suggest that the administration give up, in the first place, such dangerous programmes as development of the intercontinental mobile-based MX ballistic missile, further improvement of Minuteman missiles by fitting them out with MK-12A warheads of enhanced yield and accuracy and the building of Trident-2 missiles. They point especially to the danger of deployment by the United States of strategic-range cruise missiles and say that the process of proliferation of such weapons among other countries may become dangerously uncontrollable.

By making these and a number of other cutbacks, the memorandum says, the United States could reduce its defense spending in the 1979 fiscal year by 10.5 billion dollars.

The preface to the memorandum, written by a number of prominent public and trade union leaders of the USA, says that the funds thus released from the Pentagon budget could be used to solve major social problems.

NEW MEASURES PLANNED BY U.S. TO STRENGTHEN NATO

LD072219Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1935 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 7 March--The U.S. Government is planning new measures for stepping up the military potential of the aggressive NATO bloc. According to AP, which cites U.S. officials, a routine summit conference of the NATO member countries will be held in Washington on 30-31 May this year to discuss measures for the "military strengthening" of this bloc.

It is reported that measures for building up conventional NATO armed forces will be examined at the conference and long-term programs for strengthening the military might of the bloc in the eighties will also be reviewed. Observers believe that the United States will require its allies to increase their military expenditure considerably, promising in return to increase purchases of arms produced by West European concerns.

RACIST REACTION ATTEMPTING TO KILL HARRIS 'LEGALLY'

LD061110Y Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 6, TASS--There is only five days to go before the execution, but the young black fellow John Harris is not crestfallen. At the condemned men's cell he went on a hunger strike in protest against the sentence meted out by the racist court, thus expressing indignation at the conditions he is kept in at prison.

The young black worker was arrested in 1970, when he was already well known as one of the active fighters against racism and discrimination in the south of the United States. He arranged demonstrations of black people against domination of reaction and the Ku Klux Klan's outrages in Alabama. The racist authorities of the state, in a bid to get rid of Harris, levelled fabricated charges of "theft" against him. Under that pretext the young black activist was sentenced to a life term in prison.

But behind prison bars Harris has not ended his struggle. He headed the movement of prisoners against humiliation perpetrated by racist warders. The activities of Harris and his associates have not gone unpunished. Two prisoners were beaten to death while the third was hanged in the cell, as if he committed "suicide" himself. But with Harris, they decided to make short work with the help of laws, falsely accusing him of "killing" a policeman. He was sentenced to death under the new charge.

All courts of the Alabama state turned down not only the appeals made by Harris' lawyers but also their requests to postpone the execution. There is every indication that the federal court instances, the negro activist's counsel for defence appealed, intend to carry out the same policy. The regional court in Mobile (Alabama) refused to carry out immediately hearings on postponement of the execution and fixed March 7 as the day of examination of the lawyers' demands--only three days before the scheduled day of execution. It is not ruled out that this has been done deliberately so that William Ellison and other lawyers of the black man should have no time to appeal to higher federal courts.

The attempts of the Alabama authorities and the racist reaction to kill Johnny Harris "legally" show how the U.S. ruling circles treat the protests of poor people, the oppressed national minorities whose lives are not valued at all, a TASS correspondent has been told by Michael Myerson, member of the executive committee of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repressions.

Judge Postpones Execution

LD080632Y Moscow TASS in English 0605 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 8, TASS--Progressive public of the United States has scored a signal victory in the struggle for the life of John Harris, an activist of the civil rights movement, who was sentenced to death in Alabama. Under the pressure of mass protests, the federal district court was forced to postpone for two months the execution of the sentence on the young black American.

At present, the defending lawyers of John Harris intend to take further steps so that the death sentence be repealed and justice restored in the case of innocently convicted fighter against racialism.

NPC OUTCOME UNCLEAR, MAO'S POLICIES CONTRADICTED

OW070049Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 OW

[Mulatov commentary]

[Text] Listeners, we are still unable to comprehend the outcome of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC], which reportedly ended on 5 March. As you know, the Chinese press has not yet released the full text of Hua Kuo-feng's report on the work of the government and the text of the revised Chinese Constitution. Based on NPC documents that have already been released, we can reach the following conclusion: The internal political issue the current Chinese leaders consider most pressing is the completion of the struggle to expose and criticize the "gang of four." This was indicated by Hua Kuo-feng in his report on the work of the government. A summary of his report has been published by the NCNA.

In shaping China's domestic policy, the present Chinese leaders have adopted Mao Tse-tung's anti-Marxist "theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat" as their guide. It is known to the general public that in his report on the revision of the constitution, Yeh Chien-ying labeled some 5 percent of the inhabitants of the country, tens of millions of people, as class enemies. Hua Kuo-feng in his report to the NPC also called for efforts to unfold class struggle, meaning that the continuous purge of cadres at various levels should be emphasized. All this indicates that the question of "eliminating pernicious influence" plaguing China has never been solved. The issue of economic policy has occupied a dominant position on the NPC's agenda. Yeh Chien-ying noted in his report that the slogan of the four modernizations has been legally established in the revised Chinese Constitution and that the general task for the country is to accomplish the modernization of agriculture, industry, national defense, and science and technology. Foreign observers have pointed out that the Chinese official propaganda on developing the national economy and building China into an advanced country before the end of this century and the guidelines of the NPC session contradict Mao Tse-tung's bellicose policies.

NPC'S MILITARIST MEASURES REVEAL THREAT TO ASIA

OW070442Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 4 Mar 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary: "Taking the Dangerous Road of Militarism"]

[Text] Adhering to Mao Tse-tung's behest on war preparations, the present Peking leadership has subordinated China's national economic development to its drive for strengthening Peking's military muscle, while using the fabrication of a threat from the north to defend its principle of war preparedness. But everyone knows that the Soviet Union has never been a threat of any kind to China and has done its best to try to restore its neighborly relations with that country. Foreign observers have pointed out that China has a militaristic approach to its economic modernization. There is not the slightest doubt that China's drive for modernization, writes the Hong Kong journal CHINA NEWS ANALYSIS, has military aims. Therefore, procurement of military technology is the first priority for advancing China's military capabilities to world levels. Thus, Chinese Premier Hua Kuo-feng's speech at the first session of the fifth NPC has drawn the general public's attention. He called for efforts to consolidate the army in a general way and to be prepared for war. These words indicate the current Chinese leadership's thinking that the main purpose of China's economic development is to militarize the state apparatus and not to improve people's material and cultural lives.

There are indications that the already very low living standards of the Chinese people fell even further during certain periods. It is no secret that China's present grain production is at a lower level than in the 1950's, if the level is measured in per capita terms. Grain (?rations) have been reduced, compared with rations 20 years ago. Many foreigners who have visited China have unanimously agreed that living conditions there are very arduous. An article by Mr and Mrs (?Paul Eaure), published in the Paris weekly L'EXPRESS, can help to explain the situation.

This couple lived in China for about 2 years during which they worked in the editorial department of a Peking news magazine and had the opportunity to observe the day-to-day living of the ordinary Chinese people. They both pointed out that China had food rationing and a (?lack of medical) and other supplies, including a critical shortage of matches in some areas. Noting this article's facts on daily Chinese life, the weekly's editorial department said that these facts exposed the false guarantee given to the Chinese people--improvement of their material conditions. It is apparent that the policy of increasing the militarization of China, as stipulated in the documents of the Chinese NPC, will only worsen the Chinese people's living standards and will lead to increased military expenditures which already comprise more than 40 percent of China's national budget.

China's present economic policy is a very dangerous signal to the people of South and Southeast Asia who have long been the targets of the Chinese leaders' expansionist policy. The Peking leadership has made territorial claims on countries in South and Southeast Asia and instigated subversive activities in these countries. New evidence has suggested that the militarization of the Chinese economy augurs China's (?march) southward.

Commenting on Peking's completion of an oil pipeline from inland China to Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, the Indian weekly BLITZ said that this project was mainly military in nature. According to the weekly's estimate, the completed oil pipeline will enable Peking to increase PLA strength in Tibet by 200 percent--a new threat to Indian security.

Reporting on military conflicts along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border, the Western press has pointed out that Chinese-manufactured weapons are being used by Cambodia. AFP decently reported that most Cambodian troops are equipped with Chinese-manufactured weapons. The facts irrefutably indicate that the current Chinese NPC, in its formal documents, has called for nationwide efforts to advance economic militarization. This policy is imcompatible with the Chinese people's interests and is a direct threat to the peace and security of South and Southeast Asia.

PRC-JAPAN TRADE PACT UNDERMINES ASIAN ECONOMIC STABILITY

OW070429Y Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0630 GMT 5 Mar 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary: "It is Not in the Interest of Southeast Asian Countries"]

[Excerpts] Recently, China and Japan signed a long-term trade agreement. What effect will this have on the trade and economic interests of the Southeast Asian countries?

Let us see what commodities Japan and China have agreed to exchange. Crude oil accounts for one half of all the commodities China supplies Japan. In the past few years, China's petroleum exports to this country (?has increased by nearly) 200 percent. In addition, Japan will buy more coal, minerals, food items, textiles, silk, and other items from China. Moreover, China hopes very much to expand exports to Japan. Peking's leaders want to buy large quantities of machinery and industrial equipment with export earnings.

The issue is, many of the commodities China sells to Japan are the same commodities Southeast Asian countries are selling to Japan. Therefore, the massive influx of Chinese commodities into the Japanese market may (?curtail the selling prices and profits) of similar commodities from Southeast Asia, such as [words indistinct] minerals, food items, textiles and silk. Take crude oil for example, which Japan imports not only from China but also from Indonesia and Malaysia. The KYODO NEWS AGENCY reported in September last year that Japan's power companies were planning to substitute Chinese oil for Indonesian oil used by the thermal power stations. Another Chinese commodity, flourite, is an important raw material from the metallurgical industry. Thailand also sells this raw material. Recently, China's export of fluorite to Japan has increased continuously, while Japan's imports of this commodity from Thailand have decreased.

To a certain extent, the abandorment of Southeast Asian petroleum for Chinese oil enables Japan to take a stronger position in its negotiations with Southeast Asian countries over navigation through the Malacca Strait. The alliance between China and Japan has led to the Peking's support of Japan's economic policy toward Southeast Asia, ignoring that region's repeated protests against Japan's exploitation and neo-colonial manifestations. This is not at all surprising because China's relationship with the Southeast Asian countries is far from equal. Like Japan, China enjoys a large export surplus in trade with the countries in this region, which is approaching $1.5 billion. In other words, both Peking and Tokyo are extracting foreign exchange from the Southeast Asian countries through trade and economic relations. Their identical stands makes Peking's leaders side with Japan in the latter's disputes with Southeast Asian countries. Based on these facts, one has the impression that Peking and Tokyo are pursuing coordinated and identical economic policies which are not in the interests of the Southeast Asian countries.

PRC'S LEI FENG MOVEMENT PROMOTES ANTI-SOVIETISM

OW070409Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 0730 GMT 4 Mar 78 OW

[Talk by General Bochkarev on the 15th anniversary of Mao's instruction on learning from Lei Feng--read by announcer]

[Text] Fifteen years ago, in early March 1963, the Peking propaganda machine published Mao Tse-tung's new instruction on learning from Lei Feng, calling on all People's Liberation Army [PLA] commanders and fighters, particularly the young fighters, to study this instruction. Since then, the deeds of this good fighter, as he is called by the Peking propaganda machine, have been continually publicized in party and PLA newspapers and journals. This movement has nothing in common with the spirit of educating the young fighters to be loyal to the people, the motherland and the socialist and communist ideology. The main responsibility of the fighters of a people's army is to defend the workers' victorious achievements in waging revolution and defend the people and the country against invasion by imperialists. It is essential for them to have high consciousness and know whom they are serving and whose interests they are defending. This was included in the tasks put forth by Lenin, the teacher of the world proletariat, in establishing the first Soviet worker-peasant Red Army in the world. Since then, this has become a pattern for the armed forces of other socialist countries.

The older generation of the Chinese PLA naturally remember that, for many years, the Chinese Army's educational work was based on such Marxist-Leninist principles. However, the situation changed after Mao Tse-tung and his ilk began following an antipeople, antisocialist policy. Since then, the work of building the Chinese Army has been carried out incorrectly and has pursued one (?goal) only: To build the army into an obedient instrument for implementing Mao Tse-tung's policies and to turn the fighters who have socialist consciousness into blind, unquestioning adherents of Mao Tse-tung thought.

It is very possible that Lei Peng, who died after a car accident, was a genuinely good and heroic fighter loyal to the people. However, the Peking propaganda machine has not chosen to emphasize these qualities, and instead has called on the Chinese PLA commanders and fighters to cherish Mao Tse-tung as warmly as Lei Feng did. After Lei Feng's death, evidence of such affection reportedly was discovered in his diary. Based on such evidence, it would appear that his life was characterized by endless obedience to Mao Tse-tung's instructions and boundless loyalty to Mao Tse-tung.

The movement to learn from Lei Feng was initiated by Mao Tse-tung before the destructive Cultural Revolution. In the course of this revolution, the army was used to destroy government organs that were established through legitimate procedures, including the party, the Young Communist League and the trade union organizations, and to suppress the Chinese leaders [words indistinct] who were opposing this movement to defend their rights and freedom. At that time, Mao Tse-tung and his ilk made use of those who were "boundlessly loyal and obedient to the leadership." Mao Tse-tung also made use of them to create armed conflicts along the Chinese-Soviet and Chinese-Indian borders as well as along borders with other neighboring countries.

After the death of Mao Tse-tung, the representatives of the Chinese (?Army), who personally witnessed the conversion of the Chinese PLA into an antipeople and harmful army, hoped that basic changes would take place in the building of the Chinese Army. Regrettably, no such changes took place. The tasks for the Chinese PLA set forth by the 11th National CCP Congress and the current NPC show that, in their domestic policy, the Chinese leaders still regard the army as a principal political, ideological and educational force.

According to reports by foreign correspondents, in implementing Mao Tse-tung's instruction and policy on the task of "three supports and two military's," the enterprises, people's communes and schools in many Chinese provinces have recently been strengthened under military superivision. In carrying out a large-scale clean-up in party organizations andsectors of the national economy, the so-called propaganda work teams comprised of soldiers have been sent to the various provinces and counties. The Peking leaders have instructed the soldiers to play a leading role in the struggle against class enemies. Anyone dissatisfied with the present antipeople system is suspect as a class enemy and the army is instructed to suppress those dissatisfied with the current policy. However, it is now not so easy to order the Chinese soldiers, who come from families of workers, peasants and working intellectuals, to suppress the Chinese people and [words indistinct] as the soldiers did in the period of the destructive Cultural Revolution. This is why the movement to learn from Lei Feng has been continued in Chinese PLA units. It intends to turn soldiers into "screws" and "oxen" so that they will implement orders blindly.

It is widely known that the 11th National CCP Congress informed Chinese laborers and soldiers that a movement similar to the Cultural Revolution would be carried out in the future. Obviously, the army will be ordered to take part in such a destructive movement. In other words, Chinese PLA commanders and fighters will once again be assigned the task of opposing the people. This will greatly arouse bitter feelings among the army and the people. The leaders in Peking need the Lei Feng movement because it makes it much easier to instill flagrant anti-Soviet doctrines in the army and to stir up hostility against the army of the Soviet Union, the first socialist country in the world.

CEMA'S ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS COMPARED TO EEC

LD071604Y Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 7, TASS--The CMEA countries have produced last year 204 million tons of steel, 5.5 million tons more than in 1976. Their share in the world steel output topped 30 percent, a TASS correspondent was told at the statistics department of the CMEA Secretariat.

This is one of the main indicators of the stable and dynamic economic development of the fraternal countries in 1977. As always, it knew no slumps and crises, typical of the capitalist world. The programmes of the first two years of the current five-year plan period have been successfully fulfilled and the planned targets have been topped in individual sectors of economy.

As in previous years, electrical power production, mechanical-engineering, radio-electronics, chemical and petroleum-gas industries have developed at priority rates. The countries of the socialist community generated in 1977 1,540 thousand million kilowatt-hours of electric power, extracted 725 million tons of coal and anthracite, produced 564 million tons of oil and 379,000 million cubic metres of gas.

A considerable increment of production was recorded in the leading branches of economy and the share of the CMEA countries in world production grew to the following proportions: electric-power generation to 21.4 per cent, coal output to 30 per cent, gas output to 26.3 percent. At the same time the Common Market states produced, for instance, one third less electric power than the CMEA countries. Their share in the total world generation of electric power dropped to 16.1 per cent.

Last year the fraternal socialist countries turned out more than 700,000 tractors and 900,000 lorries, about two million passenger cars.

All these achievements had a favourable incluence on the further expansion of foreign trade relations of the CMEA countries. Their foreign trade turnover grew during the past two years by 31 per cent and reached 161,000 million roubles.

CPSU CC SENDS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF LAMBERZ

LD071955Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has expressed deep consolences to the SED Central Committee in connection with the tragic death of Werner Lamberz, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Party Central Committee, and Paul Markowski, member of the Party Central Committee and chief of the Central Committee International Relations Department.

RECEPTION FOR GDR ARMY JUBILEE HELD IN MOSCOW

LD070839Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "GDR National People's Army Day"]

[Text] Maj Gen K.H. Drews, military naval and air attache at the GDR Embassy in the Soviet Union, has held a reception to mark the 22d anniversary of the GDR National People's Army.

The reception was attended on the Soviet side by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General P.I. Batov, chairman of the Soviet War Veterans Committee; and generals, admirals and officers.

H. Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR, and military, naval and air attaches accredited to embassies of foreign countries in Moscow were at the reception. The reception was held in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

USTINOV SENDS JUBILEE GREETINGS TO GDR'S ZHUROV

LD061655Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To Comrade Army General D. Zhurov, Bulgarian minister of national defense, Sofia:

Dear Comrade Minister:

On behalf of the personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces and personally I send you and all Bulgarian servicemen wholehearted congratulations on the occasion of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke.

The joint struggle of the Russian and Bulgarian peoples in 1877 through 1878 enabled Bulgaria to free itself from slavery which had lasted five centuries and to embark on the path of independent development and progress. It made an important contribution to the consolidation of Russian-Bulgarian friendship. Soviet servicemen note with satisfaction that the combat community of our peoples, convincingly manifested near Pleven and at Shipka and tempered in the years of joint struggle against fascism, is continuing to develop and strengthen for the sake of the cause of peace and socialism. On this notable day I wish you and the entire personnel of the Bulgarian People's Army new successes in combat and political training.

With communist greetings

[Signed] Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Ustinov, USSR defense minister.

ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ARRIVES IN GDR FOR TALKS

LD041656Y Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 4, TASS--Foreign Minister of Ethiopia Colonel Feleke Gedle-Giorgis arrived for an official visit here today at the invitation of the GDR's Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer. At the airport he was welcomed by Oskar Fischer and other officials.

Report on Talks

LD071851Y Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 7, TASS--Talks were held here between the GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and the Ethiopian Foreign Minister Colonel Feleke Gedle-Giorgis.

In discussing topical international issues great attention was paid to the maintenance of peace, the deepening of detente in Europe and the need to spread it to other regions of the world.

Oskar Fischer briefed the Ethiopian representative about the GDR's contribution to the strategy of (?peace) pursued by the socialist community of states. Feleke Gedle-Giorgis stressed for his part that the new socialist Ethiopia attaches great significance to the preservation and safeguarding of peace and comes out for equal cooperation among all states.

The two ministers paid the main attention to the situation in Africa. Oskar Fishcher stressed that the GDR was firmly on the side of the states and peoples fighting for national and social liberation, against colonialism, racism and apartheid. The Ethiopian foreign minister spoke highly of the [words indistinct] by the GDR to socialist Ethiopia and to other African states in the anti-imperialist struggle.

The two sides expressed deep concern over the intensified imperialist and reactionary activities in the African Continent. They condemned the interference of imperialist states in the conflict in the Horn of Africa and their manoeuvre [word indistinct] (?Zimbabwe) and Namibia.

The participants in the talks stressed with [words indistinct] that cooperation between the GDR and Ethiopia was developing successfully.

A consular treaty and an agreement to establish an air link between the GDR and Ethiopia was signed at the GDR Foreign Affairs Ministry.

SFRY-SPANISH COMMUNIQUE ON OREJA VISIT REPORTED

LD041653Y Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, March 4, TASS--Yugoslavia and Spain express the hope that the Belgrade meeting with be crowned with adoption of the final document which will lend a fresh impetus to consolidation of European security and cooperation in all spheres and will ensure continued efforts aimed at putting into life the final act, says a joint communique, published here, on a visit to Yugoslavia of Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja and his negotiations with Milos Minic, vice-president of the Federal Executive Council, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

At the negotiations an exchange of opinions was held on the development of cooperation between the two countries and on pressing international problems. Identity or proximity of views of the two sides on questions under discussion was noted. Agreements on co-operation between Yugoslavia and Spain in science and technology, culture, education and tourism were signed during the visit. Marcelino Oreja said at a press conference that King Juan Carlos the First of Spain invited Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito to come to Spain for an official visit.

PRAVDA VERSION OF BLOC CP CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE NOTED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 2 March publishes on page 4 a TASS--attributed report on the communique issued at the conference of secretaries of the central committees of the socialist countries communist and worker parties in Budapest between February 27 and March 1, the apparent text of which was transmitted by Budapest MTI and published in the East Europe DAILY REPORT of 2 March, on page AA 2. The only significant difference between the Budapest MTI English version and the PRAVDA version is in the last paragraph of Page AA 4, which PRAVDA renders: "The conference was marked by a businesslike and friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of equality and mutual respect and internationalist solidarity."

'ATLANTICISTS' ARGUMENTS FOR NEUTRON BOMB CRITICIZED

LD0711357 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Observers describe the actions of adherents to neutron weapons as a counter-offensive. In the face of angry protests by the international public against the barbaric plans for starting production of these weapons and deploying them on the territory of Western Europe, the supporters of these weapons have recently resorted to new cunning maneuvers.

Their former attempts to prove the unprovable--the "humane nature" of the neutron bomb and the "raising of the nuclear threshold" in the event of the armament's adoption--had suffered ignominious failure. And although they continue to resort to such assertions, this is done without the former enthusiasm but rather through inertia. But to make up for this, as if by command, the Atlantic strategists and pro-NATO press organs have begun a new campaign designed, according to its organizers' intentions, to convince the peoples of the "inoffensiveness" of neutron warheads, on the one hand, and of the "vital need for them" on the other hand.

What now do the "arguments," if one may use that word, of the Atlanticists amount to? Let us try to look into this.

First, the apologists of neutron weapons assert that these weapons are exclusively defensive in nature. This is a patent lie. In actual fact they can be of benefit only to an aggressor, to those who intend to capture foreign territory with all the property located on that territory, having annihilated beforehand as large a number of defending troops and civilians as possible. Moreover, even those people whom the most sophisticated bourgeois propagandists are unable to categorize as "agents of Moscow" adhere to this opinion about the nature of neutron weapons. Among them is the retired West German General J. Benecke who observed that neutron weapons "ought rather to be placed in the category of weapons of aggression." Another West German figure, E. Bahr, agrees with this same viewpoint. While occupying an extremely ambiguous position on neutron weapons at the present time, he nevertheless believes that "they can serve as offensive weapons too insofar as it would be possible with their aid, to win territory which would be left unharmed (leaving aside any mention of people)." But the champions of the neutron bomb only talk about such a "triviality " when they are working out how quickly people perish under the effects of penetrating radiation.

The second "new" argument of the authors of the misanthropic plans from the NATO camp amounts to the alleged fact that the neutron bomb is less dangerous than the "classical nuclear weapon." What does less dangerous mean? For whom or for what? For buildings? Maybe. But not for man. After all, the neutron bomb is specially designed for the mass annihilation of people. Moreover the adoption of neutron weapons as an armament by no means provides for the automatic curtailment of "classic nuclear weapons." It must lead not to the reduction but to the further expansion of nuclear arsenals. This was even admitted by Gen A. Haig, supreme allied commander of NATO forces, Europe. He said that neutron weapons are a "long-awaited contribution to the modernization of our nuclear armaments in the European theater of combat operations."

Finally, the third argument of the Atlanticists is that the deployment of neutron weapons will force the Soviet Union to make concessions at arms limitation talks. In other words, a new attempt is being made to conduct dealings with the USSR "from a position of strength." Is it necessary to talk about the futility of such attempts? It would be a good thing if those who are making these attempts were to recall that the West has never succeeded in blackmailing the Soviet Union or achieving one-sided advantages by such means, even with the aid of atomic or hydrogen weapons.

Thus, the new "arguments" of the Atlanticists, when checked out, prove to be no more convincing than the old ones. Nevertheless, under the veil of these new arguments the NATO leaders are stepping up pressure on the governments of West European countries in an effort to secure approval from them for the U.S. intentions regarding neutron weapons. Moreover this pressure has been particularly intensified just recently. There is evidence of a patent desire in Western militarist circles to secure a decision on the production and deployment of neutron weapons before the start of the NATO council session which opens 30 May in Washington so as to merely approve this decision at the session.

All this is provoking legitimate alarm on the part of the public. The alarm is being intensified even more by certain recent events. Quite recently the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union faction in the West German Bundestag pronounced itself in favor of approving the plans for producing neutron weapons and including them in the NATO arsenals. A number of prominent FRG figures have advocated the deployment of this barbaric weapon, albeit with certain reservations. British Prime Minister J. Callaghan has assumed the uneviable role of neutron bomb defender.

According to foreign press data, Britain and Denmark have already advocated the deployment of neutron weapons in Western Europe, and the FRG and a number of other NATO countries are increasingly inclined in this direction. However, while intimidating public opinion, the ruling circles of these countries are maneuvering and declaring that the final decision must come from the United States. But in Washington, in an effort to observe the proprieties, reference is being made to the fact that any deployment of neutron weapons will take place in Western Europe and so the decision rests with the governments of the countries of that region.

The USSR resolutely opposes the development of further means of mass destruction, including neutron weapons. The Soviet proposals on this score are quite widely known. But if such weapons are created in the West, the Soviet Union will be forced to take the necessary steps to insure its security. The results of unreasonable attempts to secure superiority over the USSR can only be a new qualititative leap forward in the arms race. And broad sections of the world public are opposing such a development increasingly insistently.

HAIG'S VIEWS ON NATO NEUTRON BOMB, CHINA 'ABSURD'

LD0211152 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[V. Ardatovskiy article: "A Drop of Truth"]

[Text] Alexander Haig, NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, has given an interview to PANORAMA, the well-known Italian weekly, which decided to reveal the treasure house [kladovyye] of the general's thinking to its readers.

The commander in chief decided to mount his first attack against the West's communist parties, regarding himself as personally responsible for everything that happens, for instance, in Italy or France. The general declared: "From the military viewpoint I am worried by the possibility of communists entering the governments of NATO countries." Let us stress: from the military viewpoint and not from the political viewpoint. Does this not presage a motorized march on the government residence in Rome if an "enemy" of the general enters it?

Haig chose as the second theme of his interview the West's arms policy. While the general's attempts to interfere in West Europe's internal affairs did not surprise readers who are used to anything, some people gaped in surprise at this point. For Haig proclaimed: "In the last 10 years the West has continued to allocate to defense a smaller and smaller share of its national product." It would be possible to tell Martians such things if they existed and had invited Haig to acquaint them with the state of affairs on earth. But Italians sometimes happen to read the reports which emanate from Haig's own department or the official American services. The U.S. draft military budget for 1979 features a sum which is a record for the entire history of the country--$128.4 billion. While "steadily reducing," according to Haig's assurances, their arms expenditure, the NATO countries spent $165 billion under this subhead in 1977 as against $146 billion in 1976.

After Haig had treated the facts in such an original way, readers were not surprised by his opinions on the neutron bomb. In the opinion of thecommander in chief, "the usability of this weapon is the greatest guarantee that it will not be used." In such instances the medieval fanatics said: "I believe because it is absurd." But they have long since disappeared.... From the "philosophy of the absurd" the general switched to absurd policy. "I am convinced," he said, "that the neutron bomb will make the Soviet Union embark on talks by virtue of the very fact that we have it."

The Soviet Union has never renounced talks. It is continuing to hold them now, although Haig pretends that he has not been informed of this.

However, Haig has discovered yet another source for increasing NATO's might. This revelation is the culmination and crux of the general's interview. "The new Peking leaders," Haig declared, "whom I call pragmatists and not 'moderates, view the West's solidarity with great interest.... Of course, I am not going so far as to urge China to join NATO. But in a certain sense it is already to some extent the 16th member of the Atlantic alliance."

Bravo, General Haig! At last a drop of the truth diluted the barrel of nonsense poured out in the pages of PANORAMA.

BUILDUP OF NATO FORCES IN NORTH, BALTIC SEAS NOTED

LD080702Y Moscow TASS in English 0626 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 8 TASS--"Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Europe General Haig, PRAVDA's commentator Vladimir Shelkov writes, addressed in Washington members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He cited in his speech a long list of NATO measures for building up the combat might of the aggressive bloc. The general said that most of West European military leaders want that the neutron bomb be deployed in the continent. Adoption of the destructive bomb among the NATO weapons may only lower the threshold to nuclear war." But the NATO military leaders openly advocate this fresh wreckless step along the road of arms race, that will lead only to poisoning the international atmosphere in Europe.

NATO is speedily building up its conventional weapons stocks. The countries of the bloc are increasing their military budgets from year to year and appropriate thousands of millions on perfecting and modernizing means of warfare and holding numerous military exercises. Under cover of the sheer lie of some "Soviet military threat", the NATO leaders are building up the land, air and naval forces in Western Europe, from the Northern and Baltic seas to the Adriatic.

Very indicative in this respect is the NATO naval force whose duty is "to keep an eye" on the North and Baltic seas. The West German Navy alone is represented there, according to the Western press, by three destroyers (one of which is equipped with missiles), a squadron of patrol boats, four divisions of speed boats, two detachments of submarines, six detachments of mine sweepers, as well as units of fighter bomber aircraft.

Quite a few examples of NATO's sinister activity can be cited. As Haig said, a number of the member-countries of the North Atlantic alliance agreed to place under the command of the bloc additional land and airforce units. Plans had been announced in the USA to produce a mobile ballistic medium-range missile with a nuclear charge specially designed for use in Europe.

The aggressive line of the NATO military bloc has been and remains a grave threat to the cause of peace, to the vital interests of peoples.

CDU-CSU 'OBSERVATIONS' ON RELATIONS WITH USSR HIT

LD021323Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Ye. Grigoryev article: "With Regard to the 'Observations'"]

[Text] An unexpected document has appeared in the West German press. It is entitled "Observations with Regard to the Policy of the Christian Democratic Union [CDU] and Christian Social Union [CSU] Government toward the Soviet Union."

At first the title suggests that this is evidently an archive fossil from the times of Adenauer: For these days the CDU-CSU government does not exist. However, the above-mentioned document is not newly arrived from the past. It was prepared recently. A sizable commission, which included Bundestag deputies and specialists on the Soviet Union and international law, was set up for this purpose. They pondered, about the future, in case the Christian Democratic helmsmen return to the wheel of the Rhine ship of state.

But, for the public, this is not the point. Regardless of participation or nonparticipation in power, the concepts being proposed by such a big political force in the FRG as the CDU-CSU in the sphere of relations with the USSR naturally cannot fail to attract definite attention.

The attempt in itself to comprehend the problems of detente, present relations between the FRG and the USSR and their prospects is undoubtedly a useful thing, particularly for the CDU-CSU--parties whose fundamental foreign policy views and goals are extremely archaic. Certain circles in this bloc understand that this is their achilles heel, for the majority of the country's population is for the policy of detente and, in particular, for good-neighborliness and cooperation with the USSR. Explaining the motives behind publishing the document, which was kept secret for some time, the newspaper Frankfurter ALLGEMEINE believes that this is "connected with assertions by prominent social democrats that in the event of the CDU-CSU's return to power the policy of detente will find itself in jeopardy." Consequently, the authors of the "observations" wish to prove the opposite and reassure the country's public opinion.

To this end the document includes, for example, a passage to the effect that "for future cooperation" between the two countries "the final act adopted in Helsinki will be of great significance on not only the multilateral but also the bilateral plane." Well, it is a good thing if those who categorically rejected the final act of the all-European conference have now turned into its supporters. Better late than never. The authors of the CDU/CSU document even pointed out that "there are spheres in which the interests of the two countries coincide or are parallel" and that "relations with the Soviet Union are of great significance to us." They assure us that they intend to "treat the Soviet Union as a partner with whom cooperation in many spheres is possible and advantageous to both countries."

But what is proposed further? Further--something different. It is not only that it is hard to detect in the document any genuine desire to continue this positive development begun in Soviet-West German relations by the Moscow treaty. The document proclaims that the CSU/CSU policy must "differ from the policy of the Brandt-Scheel and Schmidt-Genscher governments." They declare the CDU/CSU line "more realistic," since it "will treat more seriously the aims which Moscow openly proclaims again and again."

Indeed, the USSR's policy is an open policy. Its tasks are clearly formulated in the program of further struggle for peace and international cooperation and for the people's freedom and independence adopted by the 25th CPSU Congress; the constructive Soviet proposals in the sphere of disarmament, the authoritative Soviet statements on its intention to continue developing neighborly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation with the FRG, and so forth are widely known. However strange it may seem, the authors of the "observations" were mainly not interested in all this. Otherwise the commission could not have drawn the truly incredible conclusion regarding the "expansionist political aims of the Soviet Union." Now, then, one wonders, can they treat it "as a partner"?

Probably this goal is not even set. For the "observations" pile up all sorts of arguments to prove precisely the impossibility of neighborly relations with the USSR. There is the "iron curtain," numerous allegations that the Soviet Union "wants to change the status quo in its favor" and to "cut off West Berlin" and "interferes in the internal affairs of other states and peoples, and much besides. The authors of the document are concerned not with cooperation but with "emphasizing more clearly the differences and contradictions on main issues." They are interested above all in "factors of disunity." There is even a direct exhortation addressed to Western countries to the effect that "there is a limit to mutual understanding and agreements while Moscow keeps to its bellicose (?) policy of coexistence."

The CDU/CSU "observations" are fundamentally imbued with hostility toward the USSR and the socialist world. They lack even an elementary feeling of reality. On the other hand, they are full of pretensions. Starting with demands for "changes in Soviet policy" (including--no less--its basic principles) and ending with turning the real process of detente into some "correctly interpreted policy of detente." And, of course, it is those who "make observations" in the CDU/CSU who lay claim to determining its essence as the highest instance.

All this is very far removed from the demands of life and is in sharp contradiction with the interests of detente, cooperation and the cause of peace. All this also contradicts the interests of the Federal Republic.

POLARIZATION IN FORTHCOMING FRENCH ELECTION ASSESSED

LD0714407 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1603 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Paris, 6 March--(TASS correspondents Vladimir Korochantsev and Valeriy Shashkov) There is now just one week before the elections to the French National Assembly.

In two rounds--on 12 and 19 March--36 million French people are to decide whether the present policy will be continued or whether the leftwing forces will win, which will enable a new course to be carried out.

An intense struggle is going on between the parties of the ruling coalition and the three leftwing opposition parties--the Communist Party, Socialist Party and Leftwing Radicals. Although public opinion polls show a certain preference for the opposition, observers are not now risking any predictions of the result of the elections, particularly since the majority system of voting in two rounds does not guarantee a final victory for the parties who collect the largest number of votes on 12 March.

Not one of the opposition blocs is coming out in the first round in a united front.

Representatives of practically all the bourgeois parties talk a lot about the "changes" which will allegedly come about if the elections indicate confidence in them. As the democratic press notes, these statements reflect the growing dissatisfaction among French people at the inability of the authorities to slacken the grip of the country's economic crisis. Even official figures put the number of unemployed in France at over 1 million, while industrial production is marking time at the 1974 level.

Although there is disagreement among the parties of the ruling majority as to which of them should play the chief role, they are unanimous in their attacks on the Joint Program of the leftwing forces, which envisages measures limiting the domination of large capital in the country's economy, and in chorus predict "economic catastrophe" and other misfortunes that allegedly await France in the event of victory by the leftwing forces.

Speaking yesterday, Premier R. Barre admitted that there is "dissatisfaction" in France and that considerable time will be needed to restore the country's economy. At the same time he asserted that victory by the opposition could cause "social and political tension."

The changes which have taken place in recent years have made it necessary to define and expand certain clauses of the Joint Program of the Leftwing Forces. The French Communist Party stresses that this should be done before the first round of the elections. It suggests an urgent meeting with the Socialist Party and the Leftwing Radicals to agree on a program, and also on each of them removing candidates before the second round in favor of those leftwing party candidates who get the greatest number of votes in the first round. The Socialists and Leftwing Radicals, however, are in favor of holding talks only after the elections. Fabre, the leader of the Leftwing Radicals is against renewing the Joint Program and, in particular, against wider nationalization.

Speaking at a mass meeting in Lille, G. Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, stressed that by voting for the communists, French people will vote for a policy which is in the interests of the working people.

UAE MINISTER CALLS FOR MEETING ON DOLLAR RATE

LD081218Y Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, March 8, TASS--The incessant drop in the dollar rate in the world monetary markets inflicts great damage to the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf.

In this connection the oil exporting countries are looking for ways to prevent the damage inflicted to them in the future. Speaking in an interview with the newspaper AL-WAHDA issued in Abu Dhabi, minister of oil and natural resources of the United Arab Emirates Sa'id al-'Utaybah proposed that the currencies of a number of Persian Gulf countries--the Saudi riyal, the dinar of Kuwait and direhem of the United Arab Emirates be included among the currencies which will be in the future used as a basis for determining oil royalties.

The minister called for holding within the framework of the petroleum exporting countries a special meeting to examine questions in connection with the drop of the dollar rate.

ATHERTON'S EFFORTS HAVE NOT PRODUCED DESIRED RESULTS

LD071606Y Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 7, TASS--U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton, who is mediating in the talks between Israel and Egypt, yesterday handed the Egyptian president the reply of the Israeli premier to his message.

Half a month has already passed since the beginning of a new round of the U.S. shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East. The talks between Egypt and Israel are still marking time. Nevertheless, after the latest meeting with the American envoy, As-Sadat stressed the need of continuing the U.S. effort.

This statement by As-Sadat and also Atherton's mission, his meetings with Israeli and Egyptian leaders, are evidently showing that the Egyptian leadership still banks on the United States, expecting that it will exert pressure on Israel and compel it to make, if only insignificant, concessions to outwardly justify Egypt's separatist position in the eyes of the Arab countries.

Meanwhile, it is Egypt and not Israel that makes concessions. Cairo no longer demands the setting up of a Palestinian state. It no longer mentions the necessity of participation in the process of a Middle East peace settlement of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine. On the contrary, Egypt has now concentrated its entire propaganda effort against the PLO and its leaders.

Local observers draw the conclusion that Egypt is ready to make further territorial concessions. This means that the Egyptian leader surrenders one all-Arab position after another and thus encourages Israel to toughen its demands to Arab countries.

As emphasized here, it would be a major political miscalculation to hope that the United States would defend the interests of the Arabs and renounce support for Israel. Through its shuttle diplomacy, the United States seeks to circumvent the Geneva peace conference and to bring about a separate deal between Tel Aviv and Cairo, according only with the interests of Israel and the United States. It is not without reason that the very idea of direct talks between Tel Aviv and separate Arab countries has been advanced by Israel with United States support.

Washington and Tel Aviv are now pressing Cairo to adopt a declaration of principles consisting of general provisions and called upon to cover up Israel's expansionist claims. Atherton yesterday said in Cairo that in the last fortnight the United States had succeeded in reducing the differences concerning the declaration of principles. The United States considers that the adoption of such a declaration would stimulate the separate Israeli-Egyptian talks, would make it possible to involve some other Arab countries and would help the Egyptian leadership to get out of the deep isolation in the Arab world brought about by its capitulatory policy.

Atherton's attempts to draw Jordan and Saudi Arabia into the separate talks have not yet produced the results desired by the United States. Jordan's King Husayn said yesterday that he could not hold a dialogue with people who did not make Israel change its position. Husayn advocated broad talks on a Middle East settlement with the participation of all Arab countries and also the Soviet Union.

Is it not high time to end the unprincipled and dangerous stratagems in the Middle East and to revert to the Geneva peace conference with the object of a genuine solution to the Middle East problem? Such a question is ever more consistently asked by those quarters in the Arab world that really strive for a comprehensive settlement in that region.

MATERIAL ON YASIR 'ARAFAT'S VISIT TO USSR

TV Interview

LD071956Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of its Executive Committee, is in the Soviet Union. Interviewed by Soviet television, Yasir 'Arafat said:

The visit of the PLO delegation to Moscow is of great significance. Grave and complex events are taking place in the Near East. The struggle of the Arab peoples against the conspiracy of imperialism, Zionism and reaction is growing in intensity. We have come to Moscow in order to discuss with our Soviet friends the situation in the Near East and to exchange opinions on joint actions in the struggle for the achievement of a just and solid peace in that area.

I am glad, said Yasir 'Arafat, to be able to stress once more that the Soviet Union has taken a firm and consistent stand in defense of the fundamental national interests of the Arab peoples, in particular the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for its rights.

On behalf of the PLO I wish to express profound gratitude for this courageous and unwavering support to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government, all the Soviet people, and to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally.

Soviet AAPSO Committee

JN071031Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 7 March--The PLO delegation headed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today met with the Soviet committee of the AAPSO. During the meeting, developments in the Arab situation were discussed. 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation arrived in Moscow last night for a several-day visit to the Soviet Union.

SOVIET ROLE IN DEFENDING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS REVIEWED

LD0723[illegible]6Y Moscow TASS in English 2045 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 7, TASS--The progressive forces of the Arab world opposing the capitulatory policy of Egyptian President as-Sadat are determined not to let the Middle East situation deteriorate further. This was said in an interview for the Palestinian news agency WAFA by Faruq al-Qaddumi, the head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The talks of the PLO delegation with Yasir 'Arafat at the head in Moscow will help further strengthen the front of staunchness and rebuff that was established as a result of the summit conference of progressive Arab states. He highly appreciated the Soviet Union's role in defending the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the right to establish their own state.

F. al-Qaddumi condemned attempts by the USA and international Zionism to strike a blow at the liberation struggle of the Arab peoples, to undermine Arab unity and the basis of Arab-Soviet friendship.

FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, the official organ of the PLO, says editorially: "The USSR is our friend. It has always supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people and the policy of the Palestinian revolution. The PLO's firm and principled policy is to strengthen relations with the Soviet Union, since friendship with the Soviet Union is the main support of the Arab nation in its struggle for the liberation of its lands, for preserving its national dignity and for building a progressive society."

MATERIAL ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANESE SITUATION

Increased Tension

LD071756Y Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 7 TASS--Women, old folk and children have become victims of yesterday's brutal shellings by the Israeli artillery of peaceful populated localities of the south of the Lebanon. The newspapers report also that dwellings, electric transmission lines and bridges have been demolished. Populated localities and civilian targets, where no troops were deployed, have mainly been subjected to heavy artillery assaults. The peasants of the border Lebanese villages are compelled to leave their homes and seek safety in other parts of the country.

The concentration of Israeli motorised infantry and tanks in the south of the Lebanon, frequent overflights of this part of the country by Israeli reconnaissance planes, the round-the-clock patrolling by naval boats of the south Lebanese coast are regarded in the local political quarters as Israel's preparations for new military operations against the Palestine resistance movement and the national-patriotic forces.

The growing tension in the south of the country, escalated by Israel in alliance with the conservative Lebanese forces, says the Beirut newspaper AN-NIDA, is most closely linked with the attempts of the Lebanese reaction to prevent the stabilisation of the situation in the country. The newspaper stresses that every time there appears a concrete possibility of starting a political dialogue in the Lebanon, Israel and its allies resort to the escalation of hostilities.

Imperialist Plan

LD071537Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 10, 3 Mar 78 pp 8-9 LD

[D. Volskiy article: "The Near East: The Secret Is Becoming Clear"]

[Text] "Hold out just a little longer"--that, according to the newspapers, is what the Lebanese rightwing Christian forces' leaders were told by Israeli representatives who met with them in the first 10 days of February. We are talking about very high-ranking representatives invested with great powers. They were headed by Defense Minister General Weizman, no less, who according to UPI visited the southern regions of Lebanon.

Tel Aviv has not only officially admitted that this visit took place, although even recently it would have been kept strictly secret; it has now even resolved to publish a special communique. It states frankly that the defense minister assured the rightwing Christian leaders that "Israel firmly supports" them. As it were in answer to this, a leader of the "Christian militia"--military formations in fact maintained by the Israeli command--said literally the following: "We proclaim the free state of south Lebanon, and we are striving for a military alliance with Israel."

Such frank dialog took place to the accompaniment of shelling of south Lebanese hills and valleys which has not ceased to this day. Batteries have been established on one side of the border, which in essence exists only on the map, and shells fall on the other side, destroying the houses of the Lebanese peasants and the Palestinian refugee camps.... Direct invasions by Israeli units into Lebanese territory have restarted. At the same time tension has been aggravated in the central regions of the country, above all the capital. This tension is caused by the local rightists' recent attacks against the inter-Arab security forces who, as is well known, are mainly composed of Syrian contingents. "In this atmosphere," Paris' LE MATIN writes, "there remains the danger of uncontrollable acts of provocation. The time is particularly auspicious for this in connection with the tension reigning throughout the Arab world and in view of Israeli presence on the border." "Israel," Britain's THE GUARDIAN says in developing the same idea, "may provoke a crisis in Lebanon, using its virtual alliance with the rightwing Christian groupings in the south of the country."

This alliance, of course, has long been an open secret. But, as in a detective novel, somewhere behind the scenes the figure of one more accomplice is beginning to emerge. "Recent events in Lebanon," Beirut's ASH-SHA'B notes, "bear the mark of As-Sadat's hand: Anyone may be convinced of this on hearing the broadcasts of pro-As-Sadat radio. In this connection is mentioned the year 1975, when the agreement on the disengagement of Egyptian and Israeli troops on Sinai directly preceded the escalation of the bloody civil war which has devastated Lebanon."

The mechanism of interaction was simple enough: Tel Aviv and its Lebanese allies believe that the Sinai agreement had freed their hands for conducting reprisals against the Palestinians and Lebanese national-patriotic forces. Everyone remembers how nothing came of this: The war ended in a "draw." And now a temptation has evidently emerged: Why not replay the game? True, the situation now is different. So far there has been no success in involving a single neighboring state in Egypt's talks with Israel. Moreover, even the signing of a separate agreement between Cairo and Tel Aviv so far seems highly dubious. First, because Begin's government has taken a harder line than As-Sadat expected; second, because Washington cannot--or will not--put any effective pressure on its Israeli wards; third, because the Egyptian Government cannot fail to take into account the resolute condemnation the separatist plans have encountered throughout the Arab world.

Considerable amendments are having to be made to the initial scenario. Their essence consists in the following: Without waiting for the official signing of any agreement and even refraining from proposing public talks, those taking part in the deal which is being elaborated are rushing to reach a secret agreement on the coordination of their actions. The Israeli leaders, who are seeking above all to preserve the seized territories and use the Egyptian leadership's capitualationist policy for their own purposes, see their main task here. Begin's government does not need peace but territories, not equal partners but satellites.

While refusing to make concessions on the main thing, the Israeli Government is at the same time quite generous in its promises to entice the Egyptian--and not only the Egyptian--ruling clique. According to the Boston HERALD AMERICAN, its proposals provide for a while complex of economic projects--from the construction of an enormous oil pipeline from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean to giving Egypt nuclear technology for the construction of electic power plants and water desalination plants. All this, Tel Aviv believes, whould "involve the pro-Western Arab countries in an unofficial peace agreement with Israel"--on a basis which, of course, would involve Israel's retention of the territories it occupied in 1967 and loss of rights for the Palestinian Arabs.

On 20 February in an interview with a U.S. newspaper Senator Moynihan, who is close to the Washington Israeli lobby, stated: "It is possible that there will in fact be no peace treaty." Israel, he said, will not evacuate the West Bank of the Jordan "either within the next 30 years or, probably, in our lifetime. At present we can speak of a semblance of peace." Deliberately or not, Moynihan has revealed his friends' plans.

Of course, neither an open nor a secret alliance aimed against the peoples of the Near East and neighboring regions can have anything in common with lasting peace. The story of the planned sale of U.S. military aircraft to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt bears this out quite obviously. It was none other than the Egyptian president who called the aircraft promised to him "10th-rate." Essentially As-Sadat had no need to promise that they would not be used against Israel. "The F-5 aircraft," the New York TIMES wrote, "would not be able to resist frontline Israeli aircraft and would thus have no serious effect on the correlation of forces on the most dangerous sector of the Near East front, but they could be used to effect under the circumstances envisaged by As-Sadat." And, as he himself said, he was envisaging conflicts in Africa.

In the light of all this it becomes clear why the Libyan press greeted with alarm the report on the Americans' intention to sell aircraft to Egypt. Like the boxes in which they are packed, the secret purpose of transferring arms from Egypt via Kenya to Somalia were easily discernible. The division of the roles between Egypt and Israel in the fight against the liberation forces and progressive regimes of the Near East is becoming increasingly clear. As several correspondents noted during As-Sadat recent visit to Washington, it is no accident that the main thing was the discussion of a "long-term strategy" to cover many years and perhaps decades. It relegates the issue of a formal agreement to the background. If Israel, Egypt and perhaps some other Arab country conclude an agreement--well and good. But it is possible to wait a while for this agreement, since the ending of the confrontation between Egypt and Israel frees the hands of the two countries' governments for actions on other "fronts." All this is clearly visible to progressive forces in the Near East, considering the preseent events in their region to be part of a broad plan elaborated by imperialist circles. Khalid Baqdash, general secretary of the Syrian Communist Party Central Committee, frankly stated recently: "The U.S. plan in the Near East is aimed at creating some pact which would extend from Iran through Israel, Egypt and Sudan as far as Morocco and would include other Arab countries. The pact is to serve the struggle against the Arab and African national liberation movement and the establishment of U.S. rule over sources of oil and strategic positions in the Near East and over the African Continent's rich natural resources."

In the opinion of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, "the plans nurtured by world imperialism and Zionism...will begin to be implemented in south Lebanon." And indeed, it is precisely here that they want to strike against the Palestinian movement. In addition, rule over the mountainous region at the intersection of Israel, Syria and Lebanon is regarded in Tel Aviv as a sort of key to strategic control over this entire area. Finally, the hopes of those who would like to create a new operations base here aimed against Near East liberation forces are linked with the projects for Lebanon's de facto dismemberment.

But is is for precisely all these reasons that the stoking of tension in Lebanon contains a special danger, especially when in other regions of the Near East and north Africa the situation is also uneasy, to put it mildly. It can already be seen in practice that not only separatist deals but even the very plans for such deals, which conceal the class collusion of the pro-imperialist forces in the Near East, are explosive. Only an all-embracing, just settlement of Near East problems, the path to which lies through the resumption of the Geneva conference, can insure peace there.

ISRAELI COMMUNIST ON U.S. ROLE IN MIDEAST

LD071854Y Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 7 TASS--The developments in the Middle East bring more and more evidence to prove the obvious fact that the U.S. imperialism does not seek a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict. In nudging Egypt towards a separate agreement with Israel, the United States merely complicates the situation in the region, said the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Israeli Communist Party, Meir Vilner, in an interview with UNSERE ZEIT newspaper.

If the U.S. administration, he said, really wanted peace it would have stopped all-round political, military and economic aid to Israel.

Meir Vilner roundly condemned the American arms supplies to Egypt. Imperialism, he said, plans to use this weapon against the just struggle of the peoples of Africa and the Middle East for freedom and independence.

The general secretary of the CC, CPI, stressed that there is only one way to solve the Middle East problem peacefully and that is an early reconvening of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

MEETING HELD ON CREATION OF ARAB MILITARY INDUSTRY

LD071425Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVESDA in Russian 5 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[From the international military-political review by Col M. Ponomarev and V. Vinogradov: "For the Defense of Reaction's Interests"]

[Text] Sessions of the supreme committee of the Arab Military Industries Organization (AMIO), which unites Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, have been in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. According to a report from the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, these countries' defense ministers, with the exception of Egyptian War Minister A.G. al-Jamasi, participated in the committee's work. In place of Al-Jamasi Egypt was represented by A. Marwan, chairman of the organization's administrative council.

The main aim of the AMIO, which emerged in 1975 and has a total capital of about $1.5 billion, is the creation of and Arabs military industry, using Western technology. Under this arrangement, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are to provide funds while Egypt, which has greater technical experience compared with the others and also has more manpower at its disposal, is to carry out practial implementation of the contracts concluded. According to the plans of the creators of the AMIO, the ultimate intention is to provide the organization's member countries and certain other Arab states with adequate quantities of modern weapons.

In their turn imperialist circles in the West, mainly the United States and Britain, from the very first days of the AMIO's emergence, have directed the closest attention toward the organization. They are not averse to entrusting this organization with the role of championing their policy in the Near East and in the Persian Gulf zone. Because of its strategic importance and its enormous oil reserves, this region has long been in the sights of the imperialist forces. Moreover, as U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown declared recently, it cannot be separated from the "security" of the United States and its NATO allies and its allies in Asia.

At the Abu Dhabi sessions approval was given to contracts worth many tens of millions of dollars concluded earlier with U.S., British and French companies for the production of weapons. Among the deals approved by the AMIO was a contract with American Motors to build in Egypt a plant for producing 12,000 jeeps a year; a contract with the British Aerospace Corp worth $75 million which provides for building in Egypt a plant to produce Swingfire antitank rockets; and a contract with the British Rolls-Royce and Westland aircraft firms which will build in Egypt a plant to produce Lynx combat helicopters. It was announced that the production of the jeeps, rockets and helicopters is to begin by 1 November this year.

Furthermore, according to a statement by A. Marwan, agreement was reached at the sessions on the building of a plant in Egypt for the production of the Franco-German Alpha-jet training aircraft. He says production of this aircraft will be the first stage in the implementation of a project to set up production of the French Mirage-2000 fighter which is to be completed in 1983. Decisions were also taken on building a joint enterprise in Saudi Arabia for the production of military electronic equipment.

Arab reaction, which is pooling its efforts and gambling on close cooperation with the weapons manufacturers of a number of Western countries, does not conceal the fact that the creation and expansion of military production is aimed at combating the national liberation movement which is growing in the Near East and in the Persian Gulf zone, and at defending the interests of international imperialism.

EGYPT INTENSIFIES ANTI-PALESTINIAN CAMPAIGN

LD061638Y Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 6, TASS--The Egyptian authorities are continuing to intensify their anti-Palestinian campaign, obviously preparing the ground for Cairo's new capitulatory actions in respect of the Palestinians at the separate talks with Israel. The role of "shock force" has now been given to the press. Thus, the newspaper AL-AHRAM published sharp attacks against the leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement and attempted to drive a wedge between them and the Arab people of Palestine. As to the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, it went so far as to demand "on behalf of 99 per cent of all Egyptians" that Egypt "renounce the Palestinian problem".

As to official Cairo, recently as it was already reported, it adopted measures that actually reduce the Palestinians living in Egypt to the status of Arabs living in Israeli-occupied territories.

Political observers in the Lebanese capital note that the main attacks are directed against those circles in the Palestine resistance movement which most resolutely reject the policy of surrender pursued by Egypt's president, As-Sadat. This is first of all the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and its leadership headed by the Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat.

The actual aim of the Egyptian campaign is to renounce de facto recognition of the PLO as the sole lawful representative of the Arab people of Palestine. Precisely such a demand is made to Cairo by Tel Aviv with a promise to "soften" in return its present unyielding stand in respect of the occupied Sinai Peninsula. The participants in the Egyptian-Israeli collusion would like to place at the head of the Palestinians quislings prepared to cooperate with Israel to the detriment of the interests of the Arab people of Palestine.

WESTERN IDEAS ON IMPROVING EGYPT'S ECONOMY DISCUSSED

LD071100Y Moscow TASS in English 1010 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

["Worthless Prescriptions"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, March 7, TASS--Of late, the Western press has been writing a great deal about the disastrous state of the Egyptian economy. In doing so, the newspapers unanimously "suggest" to Egypt a way out of the obtaining situation--an immediate peace with Israel on any terms and at any price. The New York TIMES even quoted a spokesman of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, who had discovered "splendid prospects" opening up to the Egyptian economy in that case. Pushing Egypt to a separate deal, the sponsors of this propaganda campaign promise more handouts if Egypt agrees to a "settlement". The London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH says that foreign loans were granted to Egypt last year on the condition that it would considerably improve relations with Israel.

Thus, the Western mass media seek to hush up the real causes of the crisis in the Egyptian economy though its roots, obviously, lie in the current policy of "open doors".

Having destroyed the state sector, which is known to furnish the foundation of a sound economic development, the present Egyptian Government through its "open doors" policy not only placed the country into utter dependence on foreign capital but also undermined the positions of the Egyptian national bourgeoisie which cannot compete with the West's monopolies. The reforms enriched only the parasitical section of profiteers and compradors.

The government's course towards returning nationalized and sequestrated lands to their former owners, maintainance of artificially low purchasing prices for farm produce, leads not only to the monstrous improverishment of the peasants but also to a reduction in labour efficiency.

According to the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, Egypt must now purchase about four million tons of grain annually to prevent famine.

The state's foreign debts reached the astronomical figure of over 12,000 million dollars, more than treble the figure for 1972. Per head of the population, the newspaper said, the debt burden exceeds the annual average income of the Egyptian. According to the Iraqi ATH-THAWRAH, 40 per cent of the credits are embezzled by officials and the rest is used to finance imports of consumer goods, luxury articles. "In President an-Nasir's time we took loans to build and not to spend the money on food," the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHALI recently wrote disappointedly.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT USES CRIMINALS FOR POLITICAL ACTION

LD070946Y Moscow TASS in English 0719 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Rome, March 6, TASS--The activities of the Israeli Mafia, which is organised crime, is not limited to Israeli territory proper. Its chiefs strive to expand and strengthen their international ties. Italian police succeeded in filming a secret meeting held by the chiefs of the Israeli criminal world with their Italian colleagues. At the meeting, the police believe, they discussed how to organise the sale of diamonds from Israel and how to smuggle drugs into that country.

The photographs snapped in Italy were shown on Israeli television, reminding viewers once again about the scope of organised crime in the country. Only two weeks ago the press, radio and television provided an avalanche of information in connection with the publication in Tel Aviv of a report by special government commission on the growth of crime in Israel.

In the 30 years of Israel's existence, the document said, the annual crime rate increased more than five-fold. The report also said that the incomes of Israeli criminal gangs from trafficking in drugs reaches almost 90 million dollars a year.

It is noteworthy that the Begin government looked rather calmly on the meeting held by the heads of the criminal world of Israel and Italy, though it had information about its preparation. This is not accidental. The above mentioned commission's report said the international ties of the Israeli criminal world are readily used by the government apparatus for carrying out various political actions outside the country, first of all against the Palestine resistance movement. Moreover, the name of one of the influential ministers of the Israeli Government is associated with the Mafia. When questioned in parliament, Begin flatly refused to name him. The Arab press reported also that "working contacts" with criminals are maintained on behalf of the government by one of the army generals too.

The close "cooperation" of the government machine with the local Mafia is just additional proof of the reactionary orientation of Tel Aviv's political course, which is not loath of using any means for attaining its goals. The writers of the report very aptly noted that legality in Israel has become an empty sound.

FORMER JERUSALEM OFFICIAL CONDEMNS AUTHORITIES' ACTS

LD071352Y Moscow TASS in English 1315 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Amman, March 7, TASS--The Israeli aggressors do not intend to withdraw their troops from the occupied Arab territories although this is one of the indispensable prerequisites for the settlement of the Middle East conflict. The building of new militarised settlements, development of the seized Arab lands, all this is proof of the expansionist designs of Tel Aviv.

The appeal of the former mayor of the eastern part of Jerusalem R. al-Hatib has been published in Amman. It condemns the actions of the occupation authorities. The document says that whole residential blocks are being pulled down in the city to clear the ground for new buildings intended for the Jewish settlers. The fate of the Arabs that are left without a roof overhead does not worry the Israeli authorities.

Despite the protests of world public opinion and the decisions of international organisations, R. al-Hatib said, the ruling circles of Tel Aviv sanctioned the destruction of historical monuments in Jerusalem. Not so long ago they ordered the demolition of five 14th century streets leading to the main Jerusalem mosque of Al-Aqsa.

USSR-MOROCCAN TRADE DEVELOPING STEADILY

LD072150Y Moscow TASS in English 2050 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 7, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stroganov writes:

The forthcoming visit to the USSR by the Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman will contribute towards links between the two countries. The relations between the USSR and Morocco are developing on the basis of mutual benefit, respect, sovereignty and non-interference in each other's affairs.

A few days ago a national holiday of Morocco was marked at Moscow's friendship house. Addressing the meeting to commemorate the date speakers said that the Soviet people had sympathy for the efforts of the Moroccan people aimed at ensuring their country's independence and strengthening its national economy.

Soviet-Moroccan business links proceed under a long-term plan and are based on the principles of equality.

The USSR assists Morocco in the development of various branches of industry, agriculture, in geological prospecting, the building of irrigation facilities and the training of national personnel. For example, industrial refrigerators to store vegetables and citruses intended for export have been built with Soviet assistance in the country's ports. In the course of the construction Soviet experts have trained native workers.

Recently a bilateral agreement to build a phosphate complex in Morocco was initialled. The Soviet Union will supply all the necessary equipment for the project in return for Moroccan exports of the finished [word indistinct] of the enterprise to the USSR.

The trade between the two countries is steadily developing. Recently the Soviet market has received considerable quantities of oranges, which is another traditional Moroccan export item. Both sides believe there are opportunities to further increase the supplies of Moroccan goods to the USSR in exchange for Soviet machines and equipment necessary for Morocco's economic development.

REPORTS ON ARRESTS, EXECUTIONS IN ZAIRE CITED

LD071444Y Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, March 7, TASS--According to reports reaching here, a large group of officers and civilians have been arrested in Zaire on a charge of plotting against President Mobutu. Actions by servicemen and civilians were scheduled for the end of February. A trial of their case is to begin in Kinshasa on March 8. There were reports earlier on unrest, involving servicemen, in Idiofa, Bandudu Province. Government troops were rushed to the area to suppress unrest which also spread to other parts of the country. The Zaire news agency, AZAP, reports that 14 rebel leaders were tried by a military tribunal, sentenced to death and executed.

IMPERIALISTS BACK SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR PREPARATIONS

LD072204Y Moscow TASS in English 2102 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

["South Africa's Nuclear Ambitions Should Be Cut Short"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 7, TASS--TASS political commentator Sergey Kulik writes: According to reports reaching here, intensive work is under way in the Republic of South Africa to develop nuclear weapons. Though the Pretoria authorities repeatedly stated that they do not intend to join the "nuclear club", their deeds turn down their own assurances. The first test ground is under construction, and the second one is planned to be constructed on the nuclear test range, located on the territory of Namibia, occupied by the Republic of South Africa.

A TASS statement of August 9, 1977 stressed that appearance of nuclear weapons in the hands of the racist Pretoria regime would create the most direct threat to security of African states, would lead to a sharp escalation of instability and tension in the south of Africa, would intensify the nuclear threat to the whole of mankind.

It is generally known that the Republic of South Africa is one of the few countries to have refused to sign a nuclear non-proliferation treaty, a treaty which bears the signatures of [words indistinct] which, in violation of the known U.N. decisions, which prohibit assistance to the Republic of South Africa in the sphere of armaments, help racists develop their own nuclear potential, bear the responsibility for helping meet Pretoria's nuclear ambitions. A big industrial complex for the production of enriched uranium is now under construction in Evander-Trihardt, near Johannesburg: Work is under way to obtain radioactive isotopes of plutonium. West German firms Siemens, Leubold and (?Lurgie) Gesellschaften, American firms (?Foxboro) and Federal Products, and also some French and Swiss firms, are most actively involved in establishing projects of South Africa's atomic industry. It is noteworthy that deliveries of equipment for the Evander-Trihardt complex are being effected with NATO's participation.

Nuclear preparations of the Republic of South Africa, supported by imperialist circles, run counter to the efforts being made by many countries and the United Nations in order to prevent the danger of spread of nuclear weapons on our planet. These preparations are incompatible with the stand of the independent African countries which demand that the African Continent be turned into a nuclear-free zone. By developing nuclear weapons, the Republic of South Africa, just as the conniving Western powers, challenges all peoples.

Development of nuclear weapons in the Republic of South Africa would have the most serious and far-reaching consequences for international peace and security. All who bear responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should take undelayed measures to cut short Pretoria's nuclear ambitions and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT

Ethiopian Officials' Remarks

LD071728Y Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

["Clear Stand of Ethiopia"--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 7 TASS--The main condition for the restoration of peace in the Horn of Africa is the immediate withdrawal of Somalian troops from the territory of Ethiopia, it was stated by Mengistu Haile Mariam, the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia. The broad popular masses of the country are waging a defensive war, he stressed, the purpose of which is to uphold the unity and territorial integrity of the country.

The campaign now started in the West with the support of the reactionary Arab regimes to drag out the solution of the Somalian-Ethiopian conflict will deceive neither the Government of Ethiopia, nor the Ethiopina people, the chairman of the council stressed.

The national revolutionary operational command of Ethiopia issued a statement in connection with the liberation of the town of Jijiga from the Somalian troops. The courage and heroism of the armymen and members of the people's militia, displayed during the liberation of Jijiga, the loyalty of the broad popular masses of Ethiopia to the ideals of the revolution and their firm resolution to defend its gains, are the factors that guarantee the final victory of the Ethiopian working people over the forces of the internal and external reaction, the statement says. It stresses the need of further strepping up the political education, the organization and arming of the popular masses in the struggle against the enemies of the revolution.

Revolutionary Ethiopia has gone over to the offensive in her just defensive war, and the Ethiopian people are firmly convinced of their final victory, the statement stresses.

Berlin, March 7 TASS--Ethiopia is striving for peace and concord with all its neighbours, said the foreign minister of Ethiopia, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, who is visiting here now. We do not entertain hostility towards any other nation or country, he said. The military operations against the Somalian troops in Ogaden are being conducted exclusively for the purpose of defending our revolution and our territorial integrity.

Responsibility for Aggression

LD071850Y Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Commentary by observer Georgiy Tanov]

[Text] The increasing arms deliveries to Somalia are accompanied by a coordinated propaganda campaign against the Soviet Union and Cuba.

To hear certain politicians of NATO countries, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan or Somalia one may think that it is not the struggle of the Ethiopian people and their army against the invading Somali troops that is involved but is virtually a war between Somalia and the socialist countries. Radio Moscow observer Georgiy Tanov writes:

This is a fantastic lie which has nothing in common with the truth. It has been called forth by those who are trying to carry through, under the pretext of a so-called Soviet-Cuban threat, the long-nurtured plans for turning northeast Africa and the Red Sea area into the imperialist power's domain and springboard.

Even in the West it has been admitted that the Soviet Union has done much to curb the expansionist plans of the Somalian leadership. The Somalian leaders, however, ignored the possibility for a peaceful solution of the conflict in the African Horn and chose the devastating war.

The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community took the side of Ethiopia in the conflict in full accordance with the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter. They acted exactly in the same way as they did during the war in Vietnam, the developments in the Middle East and Angola and in all other minor cases of the imperialist powers' attempts to encroach on the sovereignty and freedom of nations. Present day international law looks upon the armed attack of one state on another as a heinous crime against peace and security. Incidentally, many underlying principles of the law were developed and proposed by the Soviet Union. And, on the contrary, in keeping with the United Nations Charter, the actions of a state aimed at protecting its sovereignty and ensuring self-defense, as well as the collective effort of states, members of the United Nations, aimed at restoring peace and bridling the aggressor, can never be regarded as violations of international law.

Ethiopia's aim in the conflict in the Horn of Africa is to restore her territorial integrity and to put an end to the occupation of part of her territory. Ethiopia restated that on many occasions. Article Two of the United Nations Charter and Article Three of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity oblige the member states to solve the disputed questions by peaceful means. The Soviet Union has been acting in that direction before Somalia unleashed the war against Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa. The Soviet Union keeps favoring a peaceful solution of the conflict.

But active support of Somalia by certain NATO countries and the states in the Arab east should be qualified as crude violation of the United Nations principles. International law today spreads correctly the political and material responsibility for an aggression not only on the aggressor but on the country's accomplices in the aggression. Had not the West and the reactionary Arab regimes pursued their own selfish interests in the Horn of Africa and pushed Somalia along the road of annexation and bloodshed Ethiopia and Somalia could long ago sit at the negotiations table and could nip the conflict in the bud.

Not Soviet-Cuban but Somalian presence in Ethiopia causes dramatic developments in the Horn of Africa, writes Radio Moscow observer Georgiy Tanov in conclusion.

UN DELEGATES DISCUSS ASPECTS OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM

LD081200Y Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 8 TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports: The U.N. Security Council has continued the examination of the Rhodesian problem on the initiative of independent African states. Representatives of the socialist and sovereign African countries warmly welcomed leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, who arrived here to attend the session. They demonstrated the feeling of solidarity of all the progressive forces of the world with the people of Zimbabwe, which is waging, arms in hand, a difficult struggle for freedom and independence.

Mozambique's permanent representative to the United Nations Organization, Jose Carlos Lobo, stressed in his speech that the Security Council shall not remain impartial in the face of the criminal collusion between the forces of racialism and imperialism and the enemies of Africa's freedom. The international community, he said, must direct all of its efforts at attaining genuine independence of the Zimbabwe people. The representative of Mozambique noted that the connivance of the Western powers, in the first place the USA and Britain, at the dangerous designs of head of the racialist regime Smith, may lead to most serious consequences for international peace and security. The aim of these manoeuvres of the West, he said, is to create a neo-colonialist regime in Zimbabwe.

The representative of Mozambique has urged the Security Council to condemn the manouevres of the racialists and support the people of Zimbabwe in its just struggle for genuine independence.

Angola's permanent representative to the United Nations organization, E. de Figueiredo, strongly condemned the plot of the forces of racialism and imperialism against the Zimbabwe people. He described the agreement on the so-called "internal settlement" signed in Salisbury the other day as a disgraceful farce and a mockery of justice, an attempt of the imperialist powers to deprive the Zimbabwe people of its legitimate right to freedom and independence. The people and Government of Angola, Figueiredo stressed, resolutely support the armed struggle of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. Power in Rhodesia must be immediately turned over to genuine representatives of the Zimbabwe people.

Permanent representative of Benin to the United Nations organization Thomas Boya exposed in his speech the complicity of the imperialist circles in the criminal plans of the Salisbury and Pretoria racialist regimes. Double dealings and subversive activity, traditional support for the racialist South African and Rhodesian regimes, impudent interference in the internal affairs of soverign African peoples, he said, have become imperialism's main weapon in Africa. He described the unlawful deal in Salisbury as part of the imperialist plot directed at the defence of London's and Washington's political and strategic interests in the south of Africa.

INDIAN ANALYSIS OF TRADE WITH U.S., USSR CITED

LD0808519 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[V. Shurygin dispatch: "Two Approaches"]

[Text] Delhi--India has rich experience of economic cooperation with both capitalist and socialist countries, primarily with the United States and the Soviet Union. The book "India's Economic Relations with the United States and the USSR" by the eminent Indian journalist-economist Sadhan Mukherjee published by Sterling Publishers of Delhi, is devoted to a comparative analysis of India's relations with these two states.

Analyzing the nature of U.S. economic aid to India, Sadhan Mukherjee cites specific examples of the way in which this aid has repeatedly been used as a means of political pressure with a view to changing individual aspects of Indian foreign policy. In a chapter on U.S. international corporations he writes that their activity in India, as in other developing countries, leads only to increased economic dependence and exhaustion of foreign currency reserves. On the basis of great factual material the book shows the important role of Indian-Soviet economic cooperation in India's creation of its own heavy industry as the basis of an independent economy, in strengthening the state sector and in achieving the country's self-sufficiency. Nothing the equal and mutually advantageous nature of Indian-Soviet economic relations, the author writes of the great prospects and potential for further broadening and deepening all-round cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. The book ends with these words: "Friendship with the Soviet Union is a powerful factor in our strength and a great help in India's movement toward a better future."

INDIAN STATE ELECTION RESULTS REVIEWED

LD0613579 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent V. Shurygin: "Election Results"]

[Text] Delhi, 1 March--Indian legislative assembly elections have taken place in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Meghalaya and the union territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

Recently the political situation in the country has been such that these elections have caused heightened interest in local political circles. On the eve of the last parliamentary elections, which resulted in a victory for the Janata Party, the former ruling party, the Indian National Congress [INC], held a majority in the legislative assemblies of 17 of the 22 states and had governments in them. Legislative assembly elections were held in 10 states last summer. In seven of them victory went to the Janata Party, which considerably strengthened its positions in those areas. The ruling party's influence in the southern part of the country remained an open question, however. In the March parliamentary elections the majority of the electorate in southern states, such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, voted for the INC. The present elections were intended to resolve the question of whether the sympathies of the electorate in these states had changed. The elections were very important also for the two congress parties which were formed as a result of the split in the INC in January. It was expected that the election would show the nature of the demarcation of forces between the Indian National Congress (Independent) [Inc (I)] organization, headed by Indira Gandhi, and the INC headed by Brahmanandra Reddy.

To some extent the elections answered these questions. In Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka the INC (I) gained the majority and the right to form governments. In the remaining states none of the parties participating in the elections gained the number of seats necessary for the creation of its own government. Obviously, attempts will be made to form them on a coalition basis. Local political commentators describe the elections as a big success for the INC (I) and a serious defeat for the INC. B. Reddy has announced his resignation as party chairman; he regards himself as personally responsible for the party's failure in the elections. As for the ruling party, it managed to increase its representation in the legislative assemblies of a number of states although, as certain Janata Party leaders admit, the election results did not meet their expectations. "We did not manage to undermine the INC stronghold in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka," Janata Party Chairman Chandra Shekhar told a correspondent. "Economic problems played an important role in the elections, and the electorate's verdict was an opportune warning to the ruling party about the need to rapidly implement programs aimed at improving the people's life."

PHAM VAN DONG VISIT TO INDIA 'OF GREAT IMPORTANCE'

LD071107Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Vera Amir Sharygina article: "An Important Event"]

[Text] Delhi--A warm and cordial reception was accorded in India to Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, who was here on an official visit. This is no accident. India firmly and consistently supported Vietnam's lengthy struggle for freedom against foreign aggression. The Vietnamese people's heroic feat aroused a feeling of delight and sincere solidarity among the broadest strata of the Indian public. Reflecting the general mood in India, the PATRIOT newspaper wrote: "Vietnam is our ally in the struggle to lessen tension and for peace and cooperation between peoples, and against the aggressive designs of imperialist states." The local press gave wide publicity to Pham Van Dong's presence in India and his speeches, meetings and talks with Indian leaders. During the visit a broad range of questions concerning bilateral relations, and also the role and place of the nonalinement movement at the present-day stage, were discussed.

Speaking of the movement's strategic goals, Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai noted that they consist in particular in insuring the security of peoples, extending the zone of peace and the sphere of mutual understanding, lessening tension, ending the arms race, and using the resources freed in this way for development on the path of progress. Pham Van Dong drew attention to the fact that the nonalinement movement, to fulfill the tasks before it, must pool its efforts with other progressive forces of today. The talks between delegations of the two countries on questions of extending and strengthening Indian-Vietnamese relations are assessed here as fruitful and constructive. They resulted in the signing of agreements on trade and economic ties, on cooperation in the sphere of agriculture and the development of science and technology, and other documents.

The visit by the prime minister of Socialist Vietnam to the largest of the developing countries--India--is without doubt an event of great importance in the international life of Asian countries. The development and strengthening of relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India, as Pham Van Dong noted on leaving Delhi, is in accordance with their national interests and the cause of peace in this part of the globe and throughout the world.

SOVIET MINISTRY MESSAGE ATTACKS JAPAN'S STAND ON ISLANDS

Treaty Position Criticized

OW071357Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW

[Report on Soviet Foreign Ministry message delivered verbally to Japanese Embassy in Moscow--date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] Despite statements that they would like to develop neighborly relations with the Soviet Union, Japanese authorities are condoning an anti-Soviet campaign that demands the return of the southern Kurile Islands, which are Soviet territory. The Soviet Union must respond to this campaign. Japanese ministers often make so-called inspection visits to areas near these Soviet islands simply for show. Japan's official agencies continually publish maps of the area showing Soviet territory painted the same color as the Japanese possessions. A recent government leader's Diet statement, which sounded as though Japan's sovereignty and administrative authority apply to these Soviet islands, is also hard to understand.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry verbal message to the Japanese Embassy also says: We must point out that a continuous attempt to distort the significance of the 10 October 1973 Soviet-Japan statement is also fueling this retaliatory campaign over the Soviet islands. The Soviet Union has repeatedly explained its position on Japan's territorial claim, and the Japanese Government is fully familar with the Soviet position. The Soviet Union confirmed its position as recently as January when Foreign Minister Sonoda visited Moscow. The Soviet Union told Sonoda that no unsettled territorial problems exist between the two countries and that the Soviet Union has never turned its territory over to any foreign country. The anti-Soviet campaign in Japan has nothing to do with the real interests of the people of the two countries who aspire to strengthen their neighborly relations and mutually-advantageous cooperation. The Soviet Union hopes the Japanese Government has similar aspirations regarding relations between our two countries.

Draft Treaty Benefits

LD071145Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 10, 3 Mar 78 pp 6-7 LD

[G. Krasin article: "Constructive Approach"]

[Text] The Soviet Union pays great attention to the expansion and development of comprehensive ties with Japan. This is supported by the Soviet draft treaty on neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and Japan which was delivered to Japanese Foreign Minister S. Sonoda during his visit to Moscow in January.. During the talks in Moscow the Soviet Union also confirmed its earlier proposal to exchange opinions and conclude a treaty between the two countries on neighborliness and cooperation. This proposal was made with the acknowledgement that Japan is not yet ready to conclude a peace treaty. It conforms with the Soviet side's desire to overcome the vestiges of mistrust and alienation caused by the past and to insure the reliable development of mutually advantageous cooperation. Acquaintance with the Soviet draft treaty convinces you that it is timely and significant for the two countries. It covers those spheres of Soviet-Japanese relations which are ready for a solid legal foundation.

The document proposes to reinforce the sides' mutual commitments to develop and strengthen neighborly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation on the basis of peaceful coexistence; to resolve their disputes exclusively by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force in their mutual relations; to not allow their territory to be used for any actions which might prejudice the security of the other side; to refrain from any actions encouraging any third country to undertake aggressive actions against either of them; to continue and expand regular contacts and consultations between leading statesmen of the two countries and through diplomatic channels, including contacts during a situation which endangers or violates peace; to continue to make efforts aimed at halting the nuclear and conventional arms race and at attaining universal and complete disarmament under effective international control.

The Soviet draft attaches great significance to trade relations and economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and Japan. It records reciprocal commitments to actively promote such relations and to further cooperation between the corresponding organizations and enterprises of the two countries on the basis of both existing and future treaties, agreements and contracts.

The Soviet draft treaty has not neglected questions of the conservation and rational use of the world ocean's biological resources. It reflects the mutual interest and desire to continue and to expand cooperation in this field on the basis of appropriate agreements with consideration for each country's legislation.

Exceptional importance in the draft is attached to the provision that the USSR and Japan do not themselves lay claim and do not recognize anyone else's claim to any special rights or advantages in world affairs, including claims to dominance in Asia and the Far East. The inclusion of this principle in a treaty would undoubtedly lead to an improvement in the international climate and would be an important contribution to the consolidation of peace and security in Asia and throughout the world.

It should be noted particularly that the proposed treaty is not aimed against any third country. It does not affect bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements previously concluded by the USSR and Japan and does not encroach on the interests of other states.

The draft treaty on neighborliness and cooperation presented to the Japanese Government can thereby serve as a good basis for enshrining in a treaty sides' determination, to create a firm, long-term basis for the development of general cooperation. The Japanese side has frequently voiced its desire for friendly, neighborly relations with the Soviet Union. The Soviet proposal and draft treaty enables Japan to reinforce those statement with actions.

The first comments on the Soviet draft treaty already prove that it has triggered interest among the Japanese public. In assessing the new Soviet initiative, representatives of various circles note the Soviet sides' constructive approach to questions on the development of relations between the two countries.

At the same time, certain forces are trying to distort the meaning of the Soviet proposal, claiming that it is unrealistic scheming, and reducing the whole matter to the alleged "territorial issue." This approach to the Soviet proposals contradicts the desires of the peoples of the two countries to establish good relations and to find common approaches to the solution of international problems in favor of peace and the peoples' security.

U.S.-ROK MANEUVERS A 'SERIOUS ENCROACHMENT ON PEACE'

LD071614Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1352 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

["Where Are the Arrows Aimed?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--TASS political observer Askold Biryukov writes:

The United States today began an action in the Far East dangerous to the cause of peace. On the Korean Peninsula, near the 38th parallel, the United States began, as the Western mass media note, "the most important", "largest" 11-day exercises in which 42,000 American servicemen and 65,000 soldiers and officers of Seoul dictator Pak Chong-hui's army are taking part. Tokyo, which has kindly made available Japanese territory for the transfer of American troops and equipment, is taking an active part in facilitating the actions of the U.S. and South Korean Armed Forces which are taking part in the exercises. An extensive network of American military bases in the western part of the Pacific has been brought into action and is operating feverishly.

Having decided to hold these exercises, the largest since the military actions on the Korean Peninsula ended, Washington undermines its favorite thesis about its devotion to detente, its indivisibility, mutual dependence and its "all-embracing" nature.

It is clear to all that such a concentrated military operation in this extraordinarily sensitive region of Asia is tantamount to adding fuel to the fire. It is no coincidence that the people of the countries of this region have qualified the official purpose of the present exercises formulated by the U.S. military spokesman, "to demonstrate the resolve to oppose any sudden attack from the north," as being a serious threat to peace.

The peace-loving community has already appraised Washington's plan of "gradual withdrawal" of its infantry from the Korean Peninsula, a plan which has been given such wide publicity, as being a veiled attempt to regroup the U.S. Armed Forces in that region, as well as the forces of its allies. Given conditions in which the Pentagon increases its air force and navy, in which nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea, in which the plan for creating a joint American-South Korean command is being implemented, the present joint exercises appear to be an ill-intentioned provocation which cannot fail to aggravate tension in this region.

At a time when Washington shows a readiness to continue supplying the Seoul regime with the most up-to-date arms, (only a few days ago the American administration again requested from Congress the allocation of $800 million for direct military aid to the dictator this year) the present militaristic show spurs the American protege in Seoul onto new military adventures against the DPRK.

At a time when the DPRK Government struggles for a peaceful and independent unification of the motherland, military demonstrations of this kind must be regarded as a challenge to the Korean people and to all peace-loving forces supporting its just struggle and as a serious encroachment on peace in Asia and in the whole world.

MOROCCAN PPS DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HAVANA ON VISIT

LD072159Y Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Havana, March 7, TASS--A delegation of the Progress and Socialism Party [PPS] of Morocco, led by its General Secretary Ali Yata arrived here at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

The delegation was met at Jose Marti International Airport by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politbureau of the CC of the Cuban Communist Party, deputy chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

KOSYGIN CONGRATULATES NEW PERUVIAN PREMIER ON ELECTION

LD071439Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 2 LD

[Unatributed report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has sent Div Gen Oscar Molina Palochia a telegram of congratulations on his appointment to the post of chairman of the Peruvian Council of Ministers.

In his telegram in reply O.P. Molina expressed profound gratitude for the congratulations.

The telegrams of A.N. Kosygin and C.P. Molina express the confidence that the relations between the two countries will continue to develop in a spirit of friendship and cooperation in the interests of the Soviet and Peruvian peoples.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN GUATEMALA CALLED FARCE

LD061654Y Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 6 TASS--According to incomplete data, announced in Guatemala on the results of yesterday's elections of a new president of that Central American country, General Lucas Garcia leads the presidential race, leaving two other candidates behind. But, according to reports of information agencies, so far he has not collected the number of votes necessary to proclaim him the new head of state.

Almost half of all electors stayed away from the vote. The Guatemalans are apathetic, since they do not expect positive changes from the election of any of the three presidential candidates, representatives of the military rulers.

Both Lucas Garcia, former national defence minister of the present regime, and Romeo Lucas Asurdia, "a specialist" on military coup d'etats and repressions, and his nephew Fernando Mendes, express the views of big land-owners, industialists and trade-and-financial circles. [Regardless of] "the winner", the rule of monopolies will remain in the country.

As is stressed in leaflets of the underground party of the communists--the Guatemalan Labour Party, which called upon the people to boycott the election farce, the reactionary regimes in Guatemala that come to replace each other at a run of more than two decades keep in power through military and econmic support of the United States.

SOVIET LEADERS ATTEND WOMEN'S DAY MEETING IN MOSCOW

LD071500Y Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Moscow, March 7, TASS--The International Women's Day--March 8--is one of the brightest and merriest holidays in the USSR. A festive meeting devoted to this holiday, was held today at the Moscow Bolshoy Theater.

Present in the presidium of the meeting were Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, other leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet Government. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1525 GMT on 7 March carries a report of the closure of the Women's Day meeting in Moscow that says: "Those gathered at the meeting greeted with prolonged and stormy applause Comrades Brezhnev, Andropov, Grishin, Kirilenko, Kosygin, Kulakov, Mazurov, Pelshe, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Solomentsev, Dolgikh, Zimyanin, Ryabov, Rusakov."]

The new Constitution of the USSR patently confirms that concern for the woman, protection of her labour and maternity are a state policy, a law of socialist society, the meeting was told by Cosmonaut Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee. The rights proclaimed in the constitution are corroborated by solid material guarantees. The main ones include the steady growth of society's productive forces and absence of unemployment, free-of-charge education and professional training, free-of-charge medical assistance and social insurance.

Nikolayeva-Tereshkova recalled that the United Nations had pronounced the period from 1976-1985 as the decade for women which will be held under the motto "Equality, Development and Peace." On behalf of the Soviet women she voiced a resolute protest against the plans of the American militarists to launch the production of the new type of nuclear weapon--the neutron bomb. She expressed the conviction that the progressive world public circles would hold the international children's year in 1979 under the watchword of further strengthening united actions in the struggle for the right to live, for the peaceful future of the children of all continents.

CPSU Central Committee Message

LD071810Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1355 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

["Text" of CPSU Central Committee message of congratulations on International Women's Day read by Dementyeva, chairperson of a meeting devoted to International Women's Day held at the Bolshoy Theater--live]

[Text] In our country, 8 March is one of the brightest and most joyful festivals. It is warmed by the feeling of love, gratitude and respect for the woman-mother, the woman-worker and the woman-patriot. Selflessly devoted to communist ideals, Soviet women, together with their fathers, brothers and husbands, fought for the power of the Soviets. They did shock labor on the building sites of the first 5-year plans. They set examples of mass heroism in the years of the Great Patriotic War. They spared no effort in restoring the national economy destroyed by the enemy. With inspiration they created the society of advanced socialism, and they are actively participating in the building of communism.

The homeland gives a high appraisal of the tremendous services of her loyal daughters. Socialism has put an end to the absence of rights for, and oppression of, women forever. It has opened up unlimited opportunities for the flowering of their creative forces. The worldwide historical successes of our country in improving the role of women in society over the past 60 years are secured in the new USSR Constitution. The extensive rights and freedoms of Soviet women and their prominent role in the life of society are the object of pride and serve as a model for working women of all the continents.

Now the Soviet people are struggling persistently to fulfill the historical decisions of the 25th party congress and the 10th 5-Year Plan. Soviet women make a tremendous contribution toward implementing the party's plans. In response to the letter of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee, millions of female workers have joined socialist competition for fulfilling and overfulfilling the 1978 plans for further increasing production efficiency and the quality of work. The party Central Committee is firmly convinced that the women of our country will set examples of labor valor and of skillful and economic exploitation of available reserves, and will do everything to make the third year of the 10th 5-Year Plan a year of shock labor.

The Communist Party unfailingly pursues the command of Vladimir Ilich Lenin on actively involving women in administering public and state affairs. There are over 4 million women communists in the CPSU; over 1 million women are deputies of Soviets of People's Deputies; and hundreds of thousands occupy leading posts in various branches of the economy, science and culture. The party will continue to assist in every way the development of women's public and political activity, looking upon this as one of the important conditions of further widening and deepening socialist democracy.

The Soviet state is implementing a broad system of measures aimed at protecting the labor and health of women, satisfying their material and spiritual needs, and easing their domestic anxieties. From year to year housing is increasing and the network of kindergartens, creches and health establishments is expanding. All this creates conditions which enable women to combine fruitful labor and public activity with their family obligations.

The woman-mother: These words express what is most dear and close to each and every Soviet person. A woman not only gives life to children, but is their first tutor, fostering high conscientiousness, love of work, noble moral qualities and social ideals among the younger generation.

We bow to you, woman-mother, for the warmth of your hearts; for your concern for strengthening the Soviet family; for your desire to rear worthy citizens of our fatherland. [applause]

Soviet women give their undivided support to the Leninist, peace-loving foreign policy of the CPSU. Together with their friends from the socialist countries and the progressive female public of other states, our fellow-countrywomen are actively supporting peace, freedom, independence, social progress, friendship and cooperation between peoples. We call on all working women to tirelessly strengthen the solidarity and unity of their ranks in the struggle against the arms race imposed by the imperialists, against the neutron bomb and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, and for deepening detente and eliminating the threat of war. Let there always be a clear sky and bright sun above our planet; let there always be peace.

Dear Soviet women, our comrades in labor and battle: The CPSU Central Committee heartily thanks you on this festive day for your glorious deeds, and wishes you from the bottom of its heart good health, great personal happiness, joyful and peaceful life, and new labor successes for the good of our beloved people. [applause]

Honor and glory to Soviet women! Long live the women working people of the world! Long live the great Soviet people, the standard-bearer of peace and social progress!

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee.

PRAVDA REPORTS CPSU RESOLUTION ON PROPAGANDA WORK

LD081347Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report on CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the State of and Measures for Improving Lecture Propaganda"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee noted that in recent years party organizations have achieved an improvement in lecture propaganda. It has become a lasting part of the country's spiritual life and an effective factor in forming a scientific view of the world, an active vital position and high ideological, political and moral qualities among Soviet people, and it plays an important role in raising production efficiency and work quality.

The main place in lecture work is occupied by the propagandization of Marxist-Leninist theory and the profound elucidation of the party's domestic and foreign policy, the documents of the 25th CPSU Congress, the new USSR Constitution and the pressing problems of scientific communism as elaborated in the works of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and other party leaders. The CPSU Central Committee values highly the noble work of Soviet scientists, specialists, teachers, doctors, jurists, cultural figures and party, war and labor veterans in propagandizing political and scientific knowledge--work which clearly shows the unbreakable bond between the Soviet intelligentsia and the people and the former's selfless devotion to the ideals of communism.

At the same time the CPSU Central Committee resolution stresses that--in the conditions of developed socialism, the deepening scientific and technical revolution and the increasing complexity of the ideological struggle in the world arena--it is necessary to further improve lecture propaganda and increase its role in resolving the tasks of communist building. Many party committees still fail to show the necessary persistence in insuring that the scale of lecture propaganda is accompanied by a steady rise in its ideological and theoretical standard, offensive nature and effectiveness. The higher level of education, information and culture of Soviet people and the demand for the constant supplementing and renewal of their knowledge and for a flexible reaction to topical problems in the country's sociopolitical development and in international life are not always taken into account.

There are serious shortcomings in work in training and raising the qualifications of lecturers and giving them the necessary scientific, methodological help. By no means all party, soviet, trade union, Komsomol and economic leaders regularly address the working people and the lecturing aktiv on questions of domestic and international life and the immediate tasks of the city, rayon or collective.

The CPSU Central Committee placed an obligation on union republic Communist Party Central Committees and party kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms, gorkoms and raykoms to insure the further raising of the standard of lecture propaganda as an important means in the communist education of the working people and in the development of the masses' political and labor activeness in fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and in realizing the potentials of developed socialism.

Lecture propaganda is designed to serve the inculcation in Soviet people of high ideology-mindedness, culture, civic responsibility, a communist attitude toward labor, moral purity, Soviet patriotism and internationalism, and the readiness to defend the motherland, profoundly and comprehensively to interpret Marxist-Leninist theory, the CPSU's creative contribution to its development, topical questions of domestic and foreign policy and the content of the new USSR Constitution, and to promote the development of socialist competition, creative initiative and the dissemination of leading experience. It must be carried out systematically in all collectives, profoundly scientific in content and clear in form, implacable and offensive in the struggle against bourgeois, Maoist and revisionist ideology, give exhaustive answers to important and critical questions and act as an effective means of forming and studying public opinion. Attention is directed toward the need to intensify lecture work among young people and to educate the younger generation in the spirit of communist ideals and in the revolutionary, combat and labor traditions of party and people. Party and labor veterans and those who took part in the civil war and the Great Patriotic War must be more widely involved in speaking to young people.

The development in every way of people's universities, sociopolitical readings, lecture groups, lecture series and other forms which give audiences systematic knowledge in a definite sphere and promote the raising of working people's qualifications and the development of the masses' public activeness is recommended. With this aim fuller use must be made of houses of political education and scientific and technical propaganda, clubs, cultural institutes, libraries, parks and the tremendous potential of television and radio.

Union republic Communist Party Central Committees and party kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms, gorkoms and raykoms must raise the standard of work of party committees' lecture groups and strengthen their guiding influence on the general state of lecture propaganda and the training of lecture cadres. CPSU Central Committee sections are instructed to hold regular all-union seminars of staff lecturers and to generalize and analyze the questions raised at lectures.

It is proposed that party committees strengthen leadership over organizations of the All-Union Znaniye Society, regarding it as an important link in the system of ideological work and the party's active assistant in the communist education of working people. It is necessary to seek to insure that every organization of the Znaniye Society becomes a creative collective capable of carrying out the propagandization of political and scientific knowledge at a high level. Lecturers must be regularly briefed on the decisions of party and soviet organs and the tasks of socioeconomic and cultural building. Assistance to lecturers in rayon and primary organizations must be intensified.

The attention of the Znaniye Society must be focused on raising the quality of lecture work, developing and strengthening its scientific foundations and creating a system for training and raising the qualifications of lecturers. Voluntary principles in work must be developed in every way, and the responsibility of science-and-method councils and sections for the content and thematic orientation of lecture propaganda must be raised. The provision of technical resources, visual aids and reference materials to lecturers must be improved. The renewal of members' cards must be carried out as a measure aimed at improving the whole activity of the Znaniye Society and enhancing its prestige.

The AUCCTU, the Komsomol Central Committee, the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, creative unions, departments and social organizations carrying out lecture propaganda are--in close collaboration with the All-Union Znaniye Society--instructed to elaborate and implement measures to deepen coordination, to further improve the organization and content of lecture propaganda and to raise its effectiveness.

The USSR Academy of Sciences, sector academies, the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the USSR Ministry of Education and other ministries and departments are advised to promote in every way the involvement in lecture work of scientists, teachers, economic specialists and leading workers and kolkhoz members. Their participation in lecture propaganda must be regarded as a matter of great political importance. The necessary conditions for this must be created and lecture work encouraged. In recertifying cadres their participation in the propagandization of knowledge must be taken into account. The best lecturers should be recommended for the award of the honorary title of honored worker in the culture of the republic after many years' propaganda activity.

Constant attention must be given to the training and education of lecture cadres from among young people. The board of the All-Union Znaniye Society, the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the USSR Ministry of Education and the Komsomol Central Committee must extend the network and improve the work of schools for young lecturers, formulate programs and curriculums for them and more actively involve young specialists, graduate students and students in lecturing activity.

The Znaniye Society, scientific and technical societies and the society of inventors and rationalizers, together with the USSR Academy of Sciences, are called upon to adopt measures to further develop natural-science and scientific and technical propaganda to strengthen the coordination of activity in this sphere. The extension of the network of intersector houses of scientific and technical propaganda is envisaged, as is the more effective use of their potential to raise the qualifications of workers, kolkhoz members and specialists and to disseminate leading production experience. The USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants and the Book Trade and the board of the All-Union Znaniye Society are instructed to improve the quality of popular science literature. The updating of subject matter and the high ideological, political and scientific standard of published materials must be insured, and there must be a rapid response to the most important events in domestic and international life. Special attention must be paid to the publishing of literature to assist the lecturer-series of brochures, sets of books on particular subjects, methodological aids and also materials containing arguments and facts to expose bourgeois propaganda convincingly. Contests must be held for creating the best popular science works.

The CPSU Central Committee resolution also envisages other measures aimed at improving lecture propaganda.

BRIEFS

UKRAINIAN COMPETITION COUNCIL--Labor enthusiasm and the inspired creativity of millions of working people are among the main factors of developing a socialist society. The Scientific Council for Socialist Competition under the auspices of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and the Ukrainian Trade Union Council are called upon to generalize the quest of innovators and of the initiators of advanced movements. On 6 March, the council held its regular seminar in Kiev. Scientists, economic and trade union workers and advanced production workers at the seminar shared their experiences in organizing socialist competitions. The seminar proceedings were attended by Sologub, Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Trade Union Council Chairman, and Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 6 Mar 78 AU]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 6-7 MAR

LD080700 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 6 March, in reporting farming efforts in the USSR, notes that almost 2 million hectares of chernozem soil are to be occupied by spring crops in Krasnodarskiy Kray. The radio adds that farmers in Brestskaya Oblast have transported almost 7 million tons of fertilizers to the fields. In reporting on Kurganskaya Oblast efforts, the radio notes that almost 3 million quintals of high-class spring wheat seeds are to be sown.

At 1530 GMT, the radio notes that in Azerbaijan, winter crops over the whole area of 580,000 hectares are in good condition. The radio adds that sowing of crops in Kabardino-Balkarskaya ASSR has also started. The radio adds that this year about 335,000 hectares will be sown, and that the area sown to corn will be considerably increased. The radio also reports that early grain crops are to be sown in over 1.27 million hectares in Rostovskaya Oblast.

At 1900 GMT, the radio reports that almost 2 million hectares will be sown to grain in the Kuban.

At 0500 GMT on 7 March, the radio notes that in Kazakhstan, snow has already left the fields, and work has begun to sow a total of 30 million hectares.

BELORUSSIAN LEADING ORGANS CRITICIZE SOWING PREPARATIONS

LD031655Y Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 24 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "In the Belorussian CP Central Committee and Belorussian Council of Ministers; On Serious Shortcomings in Spring Sowing Preparations by the Republic's Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes"]

[Excerpts] After hearing reports on the course of preparations by kolkhozes and sovkhozes for the spring sowing from Comrade V.A. Kozlov, Belorussian minister of agriculture; Comrade B.N. Pozharskiy, chairman of Belorussian Selkhoztekhnika; Comrade Ye. Ye. Sokolov, first secretary of Brestskiy Obkom; Comrade S.M. Shabashov, first secretary of Vitebskiy Obkom; Comrade V.A. Gvozdev, first secretary of Gomelskiy Obkom; Comrade L.G. Kletskov, first secretary of Grodnenskiy Obkom; Comrade N.S. Sukhiy, chairman of Minskiy Oblispolkom; and Comrade A.S. Kamay, secretary of Mogilevskiy Obkom, the Belorussian CP Central Committee and Belorussian Council of Ministers note that Belorussia's agricultural working people, in fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum, and in response to the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, VTsSPS and All-Union Komsomol Central Committee to party, soviet, economic, trade union and Komsomol organizations and the Soviet Union's working people "On the Development of Socialist Competition To Fulfill and Overfulfill the 1978 Plan and Intensify the Struggle To Raise Production Efficiency and Work Quality," have adopted high socialist pledges for the third year of the 5-year plan. They have pledged to gather an average of 29-30 quintals per hectare of grain and pulse crops; 170 quintals per hectare of potatoes; 5.3 quintals per hectare of fiber flax; 260 quintals per hectare of sugar beet, and 190 quintals per hectare of vegetables. In addition, they are to considerably increase production and procurement of farming and livestock-raising products by comparison with last year as well as improve their quality.

Spring sowing is a decisive stage in the struggle to fulfill the pledges that have been adopted.

However, many kolkhozes, sovkhozes, rayons and oblasts in the republic have permitted serious shortcomings in organizing the work to prepare for the spring sowing. Verification of the state of affairs at local level has established that the standards of organization, scale and quality of the work to prepare for the spring sowing still do not accord with the demands of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum, the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and All-Union Komsomol Central Committee, or the adopted socialist pledges to increase production and procurements of agricultural output.

The Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture, its organs at local level, oblispolkoms and rayispolkoms have failed to fulfill the Belorussian CP Central Committee Bureau resolution of 2 December 1977 regarding the need to make up the shortfall in quantities of certified [konditsionnyy] pulse crop seeds and bring the existing grass and flax seeds up to sowing standards. As a result, only 78 percent of the required certified pulse crop seeds have been provided for the republic as a whole, including 60 percent of those needed on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Minskaya Oblast, 62 percent in Vitebskaya Oblast, and less than 60 percent on the farms of Baranovichskiy, Maloritskiy, Verkhnedvinskiy, Tolochinskiy, Dzerzhinskiy, Kletskiy, Pukhovichskiy, Starodorozhskiy, Belynichskiy, Glusskiy and Kruglyanskiy rayons.

As a result of the unfavorable conditions under which flax ripened and was harvested last year, an extremely serious situation has now taken shape with regard to providing kolkhozes and sovkhozes with good-quality flax seeds. In the republic as a whole, only 47 percent of the required quantity of certified flax seed has been obtained; in Vitebskaya Oblast, the figure is 32 percent; in Gomelskaya Oblast, 37 percent; and Mogilevskaya Oblast, 42 percent.

Despite this, the Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of the Light Industry are displaying lack of concern and inefficiency in this regard. More than 50 percent of the flax seed in the republic's flax mills is uncertified, and only 20.6 percent of the flax seed in the flax seed stations has been brought up to first class sowing standard. Work on the interfarm and interayon exchange of seed material is badly organized.

Many kolkhozes and sovkhozes have failed to meet the deadlines for preparing perennial grass seeds. In the republic as a whole, only 42 percent of grass seeds has been brought up to sowing standards; in Gomelskaya and Mogilevskaya oblasts, the figure is 26 percent; in Grodnenskaya Oblast, it is 36 percent.

There is a real danger that the planned measures to expand the area sown with spring wheat will not be fulfilled. In Brestskaya Oblast, only 24 tons of spring wheat seed have been laid in out of a required 480 tons; in Grodnenskaya Oblast, 12 tons have been laid in out of a required 480 tons; in Minskaya Oblast, 714 tons out of a required 1,920.

The enterprises of the Belorussian Ministry of Procurements have also failed to fulfill the plan for preparing seed for sowing. They have brought only 21.7 percent of grain crop seed up to first class sowing standard.

The Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture, obkoms, raykoms, oblispolkoms and rayispokoms are not taking the proper measures to strengthen the material and technical base of seed growing, as demanded by the Belorussian CP Central Committee and Belorussian council of Ministers resolution of 26 October 1977.

A number of oblasts and many rayons, kolkhozes and sovkhozes are failing to utilize the favorable weather conditions in order to accumulate organic fertilizers and cart them out into the fields.

Many kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders, specialists and other agricultural personnel have not paid attention to the quality of organic fertilizer preparation and are disregarding the recommendations of science and advanced practice regarding efficient utilization of peat for preparing composts. Much peat is being carted out into the fields in pure form. The same situation has been created with regard to the utilization of liquid organic fertilizers.

The Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture, Belorussian Selkoztekhnika, obkoms, raykoms, oblispolkoms and rayispolkoms have badly organized the fulfillment of the Belorussian CP Central Committee and Belorussian Council of Ministers resolution of 9 November 1977 on insuring the timely repair of equipment, improving its safekeeping and training machine operator cadres. On many farms in Gordookskiy, Chashnikskiy, Klichevskiy, Krichevskiy, Kamenetskiy, Ivatsevichskiy, Beshenkovichskiy, Krupskiy and Vitebskiy rayons, only 82-95 percent of sowing and soil-cultivation machines have been prepared for work.

The Belorussian CP Central Committee's demand regarding the necessity of totally completing the repair of grain combines before the start of spring fieldwork is not being fulfilled satisfactorily by the leaders of the oblasts, many rayons and farms. Not a single oblast has fulfilled the prescribed repair schedules. Vitebskaya Oblast is 17 percent behind the prescribed schedule; Mogilevskaya Oblast is 15 percent behind; Gomelskaya Oblast is 13 percent behind; Brestskaya Oblast is 12 percent behind; Grodnenskaya Oblast is 10 percent behind; Minskaya Oblast is 4 percent behind.

In a number of rayons and oblasts, the plans for measures that have been elaborated outline a reduction in the sown areas of a number of the most important crops. This is being done in a manner that has no validity and does not take into consideration the targets for farming output growth. Certain farms in Brestskaya, Vietbskaya, Gomelsakay, Grodnenskaya, Minskaya and Mogilevskaya oblasts are planning to reduce the area sown with potatoes by 24,000 hectares; the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Brestskaya, Vietebskaya, Gomelskaya and Grodnenskaya oblasts are planning to reduce the area sown with vegetables by 1,000 hectares in comparison with last year's figure; Grodnenskaya, Minskaya and Brestskaya oblasts are envisaging a 3,500-hectare reduction in the area sown with flax; the farms of Brestskaya and Minskaya oblasts are planning to reduce the area sown with sugar beet by 1,300 hectares in comparison with the target. The Belorussian Gosplan, Ministry of Agriculture obkoms, raykoms, oblispolkoms and rayispolkoms are failing to make a principled assessment of these facts and not taking the necessary measures to rectify the miscalculations made in the planning of farming output.

The plans for measures that have been elaborated on increasing fodder production need serious improvement. On many kolkhozes and sovkhozes they do not insure the required increase in the quantity and quality of fodder, taking into account the increased numbers of livestock and the need to increase the volume of livestock-raising produce.

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes are experiencing considerable difficulties as a result of inadequate supplies of fuel and lubricants. Through the fault of the Belorussian Main Administration for the Transportation, Supply and Marketing of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, and because of the lack of control by the Belorussian Selkhoztekhnika and the Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture, 7.8 percent less gasoline and 1.3 percent less diesel fuel than last year have been delivered to the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the current year. Cases have been revealed of the uneven distribution of fuel among the republic's rayons and farms.

At the same time, as the check has established, the leaders of many farms are displaying blatant negligence in accounting and utilizing fuel and lubricants and in organizing an effective struggle to save them.

The serious shortcomings by many rayons and farms in preparations for the spring sowing are the consequence of the fact that the Belorussian Ministry of Agriculture; Belorussian Selkhoztekhnika; many obkoms, Raykoms, oblispolkoms and rayispolkoms; and kolkhoz and sovkhoz primary party organizations, are failing to take exhaustive measures in good time to organize all work with consideration for the serious consequences of last year's unfavorable weather conditions and the high socialist pledges adopted for the current year; are overassessing the results achieved in preparing cadres and the material and technical base for the spring sowing; and are often displaying complacency and sometimes inefficiency and lack of concern.

BRIEFS

RESETTLERS IN PRIMORYE--A group of 103 families of resettlers from Poltava Oblast has arrived in khorolskiy rayon. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0935 GMT 3 Mar 78 OW]

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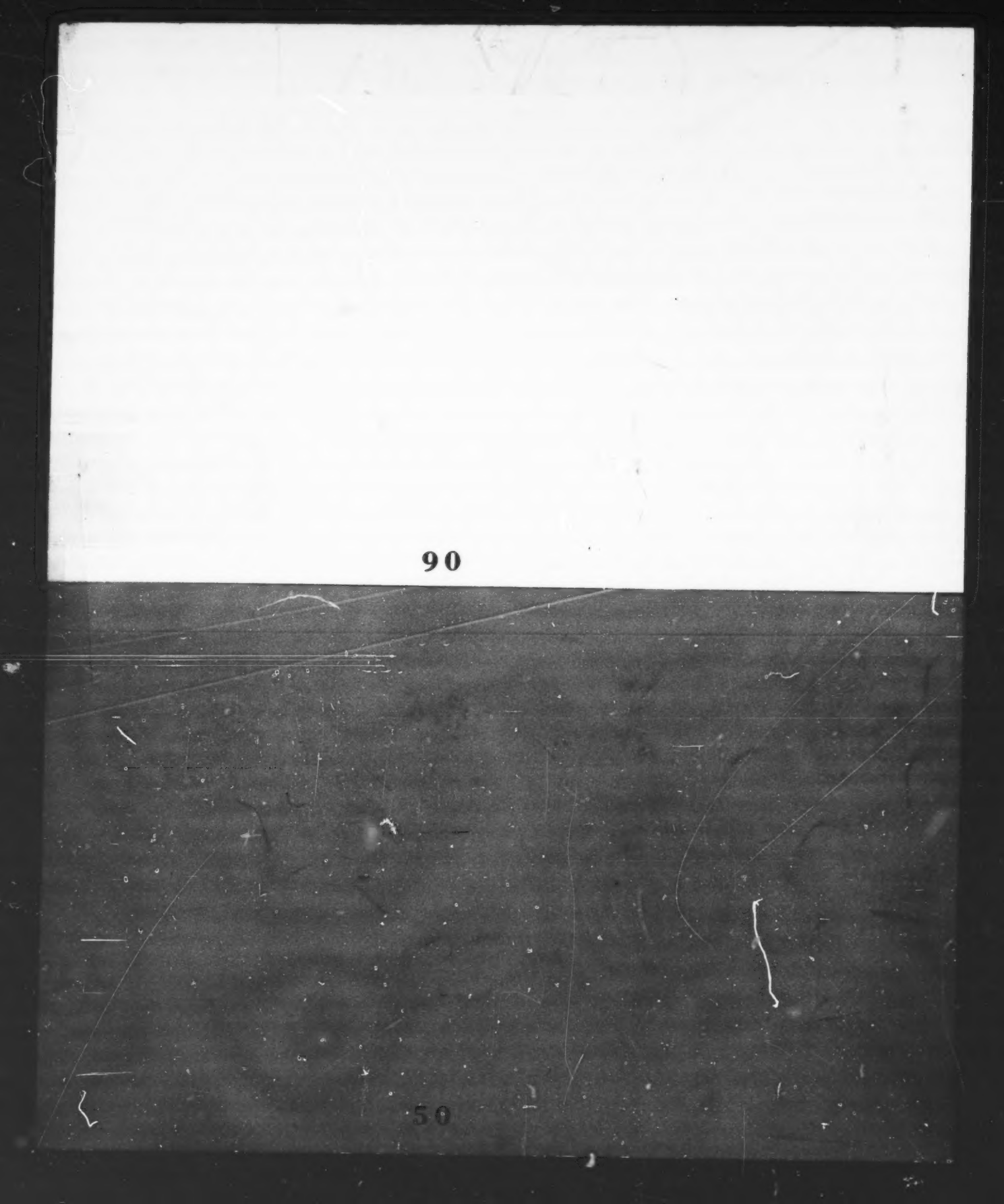
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